

THE JOURNAL

Tuesday, December 27, 2002

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Arts Tommy Davidson headlines Black Comedy Explosion [C3]**Arts** High Country will bring deep bluegrass roots to New Year's Eve show [C3]

Entering the new year with resolve

Whether the goal is self-improvement or bettering the world, local people have set goals for 2003.

By Martin Snapp

STAFF WRITER

People have been making New Year's resolutions for more than 4,000 years, ever since the days of ancient Babylon. So what



Name of person

are East Bay residents' vows for 2003? We asked some of our neighbors:

Louis Flynn, 82-year-old founder and artistic director of the Contra Costa Community Theater in El Cerrito: "My resolution in 2003 is to fight age

discrimination by auditioning only for the juvenile leads, like Curly in 'Oklahoma,' Tony in 'West Side Story' and, of course, Charlie Brown."

Jim Hartman, chairman of the Alameda County Republican Party: "I'm going to be kinder and gentler to my wife, Mary, as she is threatening to change her registration from Republican to Democrat, which would reduce the membership of the GOP in

Berkeley by 25 percent."

Dan Fontes, Oakland muralist/Community activist: "My resolution is to harass Jerry Brown only on days that end with the letter 'Y.'

Mark Friedman, mayor of El Cerrito: "My goal is to appreciate each day, to treat every encounter with someone as if it were the last one, and to spend more time healing and less time wheeling and dealing."

Eve Ma, director of San Pablo-based Celebrating Culture & Community, El Cerrito: "I want to work less, learn Spanish, get good at flamenco, and make more TV shows."

Jewel Okawachi, incoming mayor of Albany: "I resolve to get rid of 74 years of accumulated stuff in my house. I hate to admit it, but I'm a pack rat. That has got to change!"

Narsai David, food critic

/restaurateur: "I have two New Year's resolutions. First, I'm going to stop telling telemarketers who call during dinnertime, 'Just a minute, I'll get my dad' and then walking away. Second, I'm going to continue eating and drinking, because somebody has to do it."

Marge Collins, former mayor of El Cerrito: "I have three goals:

See RESOLVE, Page A9

YEAR IN REVIEW: 2002

What the area went through during 2002

STAFF REPORT

A look at Albany, El Cerrito and Kensington people, places and events in the news in 2002:

January

The Friends of Baxter Creek begin battling the Bay Vista development, a 14-home subdivision in the hills near Potrero Avenue. Creek advocates say the development will destroy a small creek in the area. Later in the year, the City Council sides with creek advocates, rejecting a time extension the developer needed to move the project forward. That prompts the developer, Jim Busby, to engage in a legal battle with the city.

Hundreds of people celebrate the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. at El Cerrito's 13th annual parade and rally. There are speeches, cheerleading routines, singing and prayer. The parade winds its way from the Department of Motor Vehicles to the city's community center.

February

The middle and elementary schools of the Albany Unified School District receive nearly top scores in the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) program. Albany High School goes scoreless though, because too few students take the test.

The El Cerrito High and Portola Middle School jazz bands perform in two concert at Yoshi's jazz club in Oakland. The performances are fundraisers for the schools' music programs.

See REVIEW, Page A10



EDDIE LEDESMARIA STAFF

MEMBERS sing hymns during the service at the Eastbay Chinese Christian Church in El Cerrito.

Friendship found at Chinese churches

By Wang Feng
CORRESPONDENT

CERRITO — Dressed in her flowing Sunday suit at the Eastbay Chinese Church, Ah Juan continues to be half an atheist. The 50-year-old waitress has nearly every week for two since she first came to church for friendship.

"When I first came here, I didn't know anybody and didn't understand English," Juan said in Mandarin. She immigrated seven years ago from Shenyang, China, with her husband. "Here you can make so many friends and they are always willing to help you. So when they asked me to baptize me, I did."

Juan is one of many Chinese immigrants flocking to churches where Cantonese or Mandarin are the languages spoken.

Rev. James Chuck, who has helped the development of Chinese churches, estimates that there are 200 congregations with more than 20,000 members in the East Bay.

Ah Juan, many immigrants regarded religion as superstition, so to church for practical reasons, temporary housing or to have a nice meal at the church after the services of their more affluent Taiwanese church friends after the service.

"Most of the new churches are set up and attended by fresh immigrants," Chuck said. For the newest immigrants, the churches often become havens of peace and consolation when the pressures grow too heavy on them.

May Wei never imagined she would be reborn a Christian in the United

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Panel hopes to improve Albany cable access outlet

By Alan Lopez

STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — Clay Larson began attending City Council and School Board meetings and found local politics intriguing. But the meetings were sometimes long and tedious and he thought it would be a great idea if they were televised and he could watch them from home.

"In attending school board and City Council meetings, it occurred to me what a great opportunity to open the process up and let everyone know what's going on," Larson said.

That Albany is one of the few Bay Area cities that fails to broadcast its council meetings is just one of the problems the city has with its public access cable channel 29.

Larson, along with other residents who want either to see council meetings televised or to produce their own programming, has been lobbying the city for improvements.

The council responded by creating a committee of city staff and residents, with goals that include upgrading station equipment, signal and programming content and getting the community, such as volunteers from Albany High School, more involved.

"We want to improve production capabilities so that we can show some local issues, maybe allow a vehicle for local film producers to get some of their things on," said Councilman Allan Maris, a member of the committee.

See CABLE, Page A5



EDDIE LEDESMARIA STAFF

PASTOR DAVID LIU, left, greets church members after a service at the Eastbay Chinese Christian Church.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Albany

Hearing set on zoning ordinance

The Albany City Council will hold a public hearing on revisions to certain sections of the city's zoning ordinance at 8 p.m., Monday, Jan. 6, at the City Council Chamber, 1000 San Pablo Avenue.

There will be no substantive changes to the following sections of the zoning ordinance: signs, removal of trees, flood damage prevention, capital facilities fee and condominium conversion. The revisions will affect all other sections of the zoning ordinance.

The public hearing may be continued as necessary to complete the council consideration of the recommended revisions.

The council will not take formal action on zoning ordinance revisions at this time. Prior to formal action, an environmental analysis will be completed and made available for public comment.

Reference copies of the draft Revisions to the Zoning Ordinance are available for public review at the Community Development Department, City Hall, 1000 San Pablo Avenue and the Albany Library, 1247 Marin Avenue.

For more information, call 510-528-5760.

El Cerrito

Creek advocates will look at petroglyphs

The Friends of Baxter Creek's January meeting will be held from 7 to 9 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 9, at 11780 San Pablo Avenue #D. The meeting will include a presentation on Native American petroglyph boulders of the East Bay, by Leigh Marymont, co-chairperson of the Bay Area Rock Art Research Association (BARARA).

The Baxter Creek watershed has two petroglyph boulders, and Leigh will discuss both of these, within the context of other Central Coast rock art sites. Leigh will also provide an in-depth focus on the Canyon Trail Park rock, which BARARA feels is "one of the premier petroglyph boulders in the Bay Area," and for which BARARA plans to create a conservation plan, in partnership with the community.

The first half of the meeting will focus on business items, including discussion of upcoming projects at Booker T. Anderson Park, and work party planning for the new year. For more information contact Apple at 231-5778 or apple@aoiinstitute.org.

Park, rec commission needs members

The city is looking for volunteers to fill a vacancy on the Park and Recreation Commission.

The commission meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Its duties include acting as an advisory council to the City Council and city manager on matters regarding public recreation, parks, playgrounds, landscaping, child care, the arts, education courses and entertainment. It also makes recommendations regarding the annual budget and fees for city-sponsored programs. In addition, the commission assists in planning and promotes public interest in park and recreation facilities.

Applicants must be El Cerrito residents. Applications for the position can be obtained by calling the city clerk at 510-215-4305 or the deputy city clerk at 510-215-4315, or by coming to the city administrative offices, 10890 San Pablo Avenue. Offices are closed every other Friday.

The filing deadline in the city clerk's office is 4 p.m., Monday, Jan. 13. The council expects to interview applicants on Tuesday, Jan. 21, prior to the 7:30 p.m. council meeting. Applicants will be notified of the interview schedule.

Club to visit gardens through slides

The El Cerrito Garden Club will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 9 in the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane. Bob Neptune will present a slide show on "English Gardens, Japanese & Rose Gardens of Portland, Oregon, and Butterfly Gardens Across The Country." Guests are welcome; \$3 at the door. For more information please call 510-234-0135.

Golf club expands community program

As part of its 82nd anniversary, the Mira Vista Golf & Country Club has launched an expanded program to aid community and nonprofit charity organizations as well as selected school golf teams, and has dedicated new facilities that represent the most significant enhancement to the club since its founding.

The club's dedication and program launch ceremony drew more than 100 people including El Cerrito civic leaders and Club members such as former San Francisco mayor Art Agnos.

Mira Vista's new facilities include a new clubhouse wing and golf pro shop that complete a multimillion dollar facility enhancement program that began in the mid-1990s.

The Club also formally unveiled a program making its facilities available for golf fundraising tournaments at a not-for-profit rate to approved community charitable organizations. In addition, approved high school and college golf teams will be granted free practice and match time.

For history, photographs and more information, visit the Club's web site at www.miravistacc.com.

Authors host writers workshop

Teresa LeYung Ryan, author of "Love Made of Heart," and Simon Wood, author of "Accidents Waiting to Happen," will conduct a workshop for writers at 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 17 at Barnes & Noble, El Cerrito Plaza.

"Where are You on Your Writer's Journey" is designed to offer opportunities for writers to practice their story pitches, to report on progress and goals, network, and to form critique groups. It is the first in a planned series of six workshops.

"I always thought that getting a book published meant reaching the finishing line in a race," LeYung Ryan says. "I know now that getting published merely qualifies me to run the race. I want to help aspiring writers so that we can all be runners."

For more information call 510-524-6813.

— Staff reports

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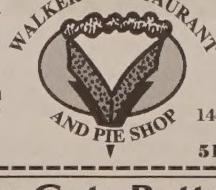
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Local Fitness Trainer Gets Better Mobility with Help of Good Feet



Local Fitness Trainer, Michael Presby, said that before he came in to the Good Feet Store, his feet were sore and hurting. As a fitness trainer, he was concerned about movement, speed and energy.

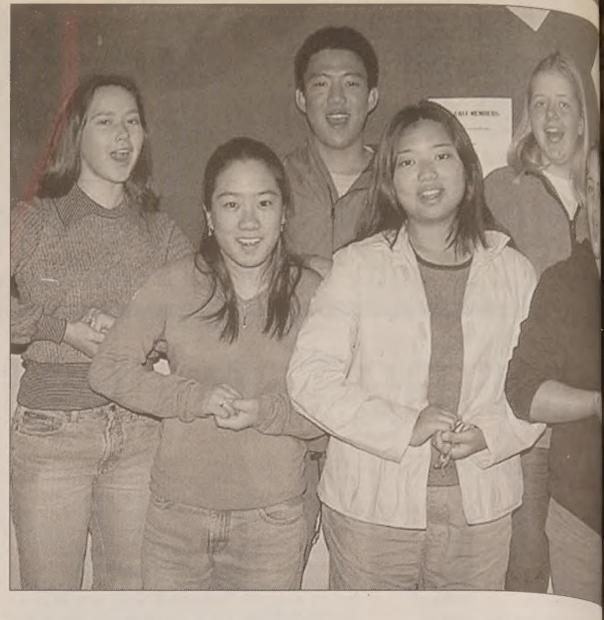
Now that he's wearing the Good Feet Classic and Flex arch supports, he says that he has more energy and better mobility. He also has more energy and speed.

Paid Advertisement

Music students corral honors for Albany High

CHORALE STUDENTS from Albany High School (left to right) Erin Kang, Melissa Chen, Francesca Minonne (r to l) Lucia Graves, Brian Hong and Jessica Lindsay recently performed with the California Music Educators' Coastal Regional Honor Choir at San Jose State University. The Chorale, directed by Joan Sextro, is made up of 36 elite singers from the high school.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



ALBANY POLICE

Wednesday, Dec. 18

■ VEHICLE RECOVERED — Oakland police reported locating a green '85 Toyota Cressida that had been stolen from Albany. The owner was notified.

Thursday, Dec. 19

■ DISTURBANCE — Shortly after midnight, officers arrested a 19-year-old Berkeley man who was causing a disturbance at a bar on the 800 block of San Pablo Avenue. He was charged with causing a disturbance, cited and released.

■ DUI — Officers arrested a 32-year-old El Sobrante man near San Pablo and Carlson Avenues for DUI. He was cited and released.

■ VEHICLE BREAK-INS — A resident on the 1500 block of Beverly Place reported that vandals had broken into his gray '91 Honda during the night. A white '85 Honda Accord on the 1000 block of Ordway Avenue was also broken into. There were no witnesses in either incident.

■ EGG-THROWING — A resident on the 800 block of Madison Street reported that her home was egged during the afternoon. There were no witnesses to the vandalism.

■ VEHICLE VANDALIZED — Vandals keyed a '99 Chevy Astro that was parked on the 1200 block of Solano Avenue. There were no witnesses.

■ OUTSTANDING WARRANTS — Shortly before noon, officers stopped a red '90 Honda near the Buchanan Street Interchange for a vehicle code

■ VEHICLE THEFT — Thieves stole a silver '91 Acura Integra from a carport on the 400 block of Talbot Avenue. There were no witnesses.

■ VEHICLE BREAK-IN — A woman reported that unknown thieves had broken into her tan Toyota Corolla while parked on the 1200 block of Marin Avenue.

■ DUI — At about 11:30 p.m. Officers stopped a white '91 Honda Accord that was observed swerving on the 1300 block of Talbot Avenue. The driver, a 36-year-old Berkeley man, was found to be intoxicated and driving without a license. He was arrested, cited and released.

■ DUI — At about 2 a.m. officers stopped a silver '89 Honda near San Pablo and Cedar avenues for a vehicle code violation. The driver, an Oakland man, was found to be intoxicated. He was cited and released.

■ DUI — Officers stopped a red '89 Nissan Maxima near Garfield and Kalins Avenues for erratic driving at about 3 a.m. They arrested the 31-year-old Berkeley man for DUI. He was cited and released.

■ ROBBERY — A Chevron was robbed of \$100 and lottery tickets by a suspect police believe already committed two robberies there. The man entered the store, simulated a handgun and made off with the cash and lottery tickets.

■ VEHICLE BREAK-IN — Clothing and other items worth \$670 were stolen from a vehicle on the 6000 block of Central Avenue between 10 and 11:15 a.m. The right front passenger window was smashed.

■ VEHICLE THEFT — A 2002 Kia Optima was stolen from the 900 block of Lexington Avenue between 6 p.m. on Dec. 12 and 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 15.

Friday, Dec. 20

■ DUI — At about 2:30 a.m. officers stopped a green '98 Dodge pickup near Jackson and Buchanan streets for a vehicle code violation. The driver, a 30-year-old Kensington man, was found to be intoxicated. He was arrested for DUI, cited and released.

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■ EGG-THROWING — A resident on the 800 block of Madison Street reported that her home was egged during the afternoon. There were no witnesses to the vandalism.

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■ DUI — At about 11:30 p.m. Officers stopped a black '93 Ford F-150 that was observed speeding on the 1300 block of Talbot Avenue. The driver, a 30-year-old Berkeley man, was found to be intoxicated and driving without a license. He was arrested, cited and released.

■ DUI — At about 2:30 a.m. officers stopped a black '93 Ford F-150 that was observed speeding on the 1300 block of Talbot Avenue. The driver, a 30-year-old Berkeley man, was found to be intoxicated and driving without a license. He was arrested, cited and released.

■ DUI — At about 2:30 a.m. officers stopped a black '93 Ford F-150 that was observed speeding on the 1300 block of Talbot Avenue. The driver, a 30-year-old Berkeley man, was found to be intoxicated and driving without a license. He was arrested, cited and released.

■ ROBBERY — A woman was robbed of her purse and \$187 at 10:30 a.m. while she was walking on Eureka Avenue at Liberty Street. A man approached her and forced the purse from her shoulder. He then drove away in a silver Honda.

■ VEHICLE THEFT — A man was arrested for shoplifting \$265 worth of merchandise at Target. A police officer was inside the store, doing a preventive patrol due to the recent increase in thefts there.

■ ROBBERY — A Chevron was robbed of \$100 and lottery tickets by a suspect police believe already committed two robberies there. The man entered the store, simulated a handgun and made off with the cash and lottery tickets.

■ VEHICLE BREAK-IN — Clothing and other items worth \$670 were stolen from a vehicle on the 6000 block of Central Avenue between 10 and 11:15 a.m. The right front passenger window was smashed.

■ ROBBERY — A woman was robbed of her purse and \$187 at 10:30 a.m. while she was walking on Eureka Avenue at Liberty Street. A man approached her and forced the purse from her shoulder. He then drove away in a silver Honda.

■ ROBBERY — A person was attacked and robbed by two men on the Ohlone Greenway near Wall Av-

Saturday, Dec. 21

■ ROBBERY — At about 2 a.m. officers stopped a silver '99 Honda near San Pablo and Cedar avenues for a vehicle code violation. The driver, an Oakland man, was found to be intoxicated. He was cited and released.

■ ROBBERY — A woman was robbed of her purse and \$187 at 10:30 a.m. while she was walking on Eureka Avenue at Liberty Street. A man approached her and forced the purse from her shoulder. He then drove away in a silver Honda.

■ ROBBERY — A person was attacked and robbed by two men on the Ohlone Greenway near Wall Av-

Sunday, Dec. 22

■ OUTSTANDING WARRANTS — Shortly before noon, officers stopped a red '90 Honda near the Buchanan Street Interchange for a vehicle code

■ ROBBERY — A man was attacked and robbed by two men in the parking lot of Best Inn on the 6100 block of Potrero Avenue at 10:02 p.m. The robbers fled.

■ VEHICLE THEFT — A 1995 Saturn SL2 was stolen from the 700 block of Liberty Street between 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 15 and 7:10 a.m. the next day.

■ ROBBERY — A man was attacked and robbed by two men in the parking lot of Best Inn on the 6100 block of Potrero Avenue at 10:02 p.m. The robbers fled.

■ VEHICLE THEFT — A 1995 Saturn SL2 was stolen from the 700 block of Liberty Street between 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 15 and 7:10 a.m. the next day.

■ ROBBERY — A woman was robbed of her purse and \$187 at 10:30 a.m. while she was walking on Eureka Avenue at Liberty Street. A man approached her and forced the purse from her shoulder. He then drove away in a silver Honda.

■ ROBBERY — A person was attacked and robbed by two men on the Ohlone Greenway near Wall Av-

Monday, Dec. 16

■ ROBBERY — A man was attacked and robbed by two men in the parking lot of Best Inn on the 6100 block of Potrero Avenue at 10:02 p.m. The robbers fled.

■ VEHICLE THEFT — A 1995 Saturn SL2 was stolen from the 700 block of Liberty Street between 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 15 and 7:10 a.m. the next day.

■ ROBBERY — A woman was robbed of her purse and \$187 at 10:30 a.m. while she was walking on Eureka Avenue at Liberty Street. A man approached her and forced the purse from her shoulder. He then drove away in a silver Honda.

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Eastshore State Park moves major step toward reality

PARK IT
Ned MacKay

WITH APPROVAL of a master plan by the state Park and Recreation Commission, the process of creating a new Eastshore park has moved from the planning to the development stage.

While emphasizing that the planning is a continuous process that will evolve over years, the commission issued the initial master plan at a public meeting earlier this month.

Commissioners also approved naming it the Eastshore State Park and classifying it as a seashore, the first in the park system.

Property now officially owned by the state is all in public hands. It consists of 2,000 acres along eight miles of San Francisco Bay between Oakland and Alameda.

As agent for the state, East Bay Regional Park District acquired the property from the Santa Fe/Catalus Development Corp. for about \$1 million. Funding came from state park bond act revenue and the park district's Measure AA.

The park district hired the Francisco consulting firm of Wallace and Todd to steer the master plan through more than two years of public meetings.

Among the main features of the park:

• Some 600 acres in Alameda and Albany will be set aside as marine reserves for sea habitat.

• The Berkeley Meadow will remain in a natural state, some restoration work to restore habitat and eliminate invasive plants.

More intensive recreation is allowed in the area just west of the Berkeley Meadow. Facilities include an interpretive center, boathouse and

the Albany plateau north of the gate fields. These could be used for ball and picnic areas. Some establishment of ball

fields at the site, preferring that it remain in a more natural state. The plan allows for continued efforts to resolve that issue.

The Albany neck and bulb would be left in a natural state with two water-access points for windsurfers. The plan calls for continued exploration of ways to accommodate public art in the park because local artists have been creating artwork out of driftwood and discarded items.

The off-leash dog area at Point Isabel would be expanded to include the area just north of the existing regional park.

Stephen Hammond, EBRPD director of planning, said the plan balances preservation of scenic and natural resources with providing public access to the shoreline.

According to Pat O'Brien, East Bay Regional Park District's general manager, the first Eastshore State Park facilities likely to open will be trail connections. Some already exist, and Caltrans is building more. Some grants are available to help fund construction of playing fields.

In addition, O'Brien noted, the park district is in the process of acquiring 16 acres just south of Gilman Street in Berkeley from MEC Land Holdings (California) Inc. The appraised value is \$12 million, MEC has offered it for \$8.5 million. Funds for the purchase will come from Measure AA, the park district's open space bond issue approved by voters in 1988.

There are many possible future uses for the site, ranging from habitat preservation to active recreation.

Because the property was not part of the Eastshore State Park planning process, it will



HERMAN BUSTAMANTE JR./STAFF

ALAN KAPLAN, the "Wise Guy from the East," led a "Mid-day Meander" earlier this month at Pt. Pinole Regional Park in search of migrating Monarch butterflies, which could not be found. Park rangers have since reported Monarchs in the park, which is known for its winter clusters of the orange-and-black butterflies.

require a site-specific land use planning study with environmental review and public input. It has been suggested as a potential alternative site for the Albany plateau ball fields.

For more specifics of the Eastshore State Park master plan, see the Web site at www.eastshorestatepark.org.

Holiday programs

Holiday season programs are continuing at Tilden Regional Park's Environmental Education Center.

Naturalist Alan Kaplan, who bills himself as the Wise Guy from the East (he grew up in the Bronx), will host a Dickens' Carol and Fezziwig's Ball from 1-3 p.m. Sunday Dec. 29 at the education center. Learn the origins of the season's traditions, as well as some dance steps.

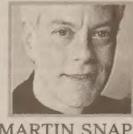
This is for all ages, but parents must accompany their children. Again, the fee is \$5 or \$7, and registration is required. Phone 510-636-1684.

Monarch update

By the way, Alan's nature walk at Pt. Pinole on Dec. 3 resulted in no sightings of monarch butterflies. But the park rangers have told me that the monarchs now have started to arrive. As of this writing, there have been no clusters in the trees, though, just individual butterflies fluttering by.

Ned MacKay, retired East Bay Regional Park District public information supervisor, writes a weekly column about East Bay parks. If you have a question or comment for Ned, e-mail him at nedmackay@atbti.com.

Amid all the outcry, Bates his own worst critic

MARTIN SNAPP
Snapp Shots

I HOPE YOU HAD A MERRY CHRISTMAS, because Tom Bates sure didn't.

It's been more than a month since the story broke about his dumping some Daily Cals in the trash, and the media are still piling on. (And, as George Bush would say, rightly so.)

But lately the criticism has taken a cruel turn, with one local columnist gleefully fantasizing an imaginary dinner table conversation between Bates and his wife, Assemblywoman Loni Hancock, and another columnist saying he won't be happy until Bates is in an orange jumpsuit collecting trash by the side of the road.

(Like anyone else, we journalists are most sensitive when it's our own ox that's being gored. I wonder if you'd be hearing quite so many cries of outrage if he had violated the Second Amendment instead of the First.)

But the hits Bates is taking are nothing compared to the job he's doing on himself. I spent some time with him last week. And what I saw was a man in pain. He's still beating himself up. He looked like he hadn't slept in a week.

The problem is that, unlike most politicians, Bates actually believes all that stuff about liberty and democracy and freedom of speech. That he, of all people, was the one who violated it — "and at Sproul Plaza, of all places, the birthplace of free speech in Berkeley!" he said ruefully — is something for which he can't forgive himself.

Unlike Trent Lott, who mostly seems sorry that he got caught, Bates is honestly mortified by what he did. His friends are trying to console him by telling him that his act was a one-shot aberration in an otherwise unblemished career (again unlike Lott, whose hateful words were just the latest in a long string of race-baiting incidents). But he won't listen.

"I feel like I threw away my reputation as an honest man with one stupid act," he told me. "And next to my family, my

good name is the most important thing in my life."

Ironically, that fateful day was also the day the State Park Commission finally approved Bates' beloved East Bay Shoreline State Park, which he'd spent almost 30 years trying to bring about. "It should have been the happiest day of my life," he said. "Instead, it was the worst."

I'm not trying to minimize the seriousness of what he did. All I'm saying is that the man is truly sorry. Unlike Trent Lott, he really does "get it" — perhaps too well. He's doing everything he can think of to do penance. And Lord knows, he'll never do it again. Now, can't we move on?

Hard as it is to believe, politicians are human beings, too. I watched Bates' predecessor, Shirley Dean, and I saw how she was almost physically wounded by some of the hateful things people said about her, to the point that her friends started worrying about her health. Now I see the same thing happening to Bates.

I've spent the last eight years trying to convince half of Berkeley that Shirley Dean isn't a monster. Now do I have to spend the next four years convincing the other half that Tom Bates isn't, either?

He's more like the Jimmy Stewart character in "It's A Wonderful Life" — a decent man in trouble. Yes, he made a mistake. But he doesn't need a shove off the bridge; he needs his friends and neighbors rallying around.

Let's start the New Year with a little compassion.

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2787 or e-mail msnapp@cctimes.com

Interview security guard goes for fun and uniform

CLARA-RAE GENSER
Community Folk

OMEN ARE IN so many jobs these days that were once the province only. Tracy Reed is in one such job. She is a security guard at Gateview, the high-rise apartment complex in Alameda. At 485 units, Gateview guards on duty at all times by Burns Security. She has been doing this for years now.

What did this friendly, soft-spoken woman go into this? Her answer was a surprised "I always liked uniforms," with a smile. "And this gave me a reason to wear them."

What if they see something suspicious or troublesome, or a resident makes a serious complaint? They call the police. "Don't try to apprehend anybody," they are told. "That's what the police are for."

Security guards at Gateview interact with the residents, answering questions, taking in and

giving out packages, supervising parking and screening visitors. They also walk through the garage and halls on a regular basis, checking that all is well. When we talked, Reed was in uniform (with a black windbreaker over it, because it is always very cold in the garage at Gateview). She loves the work.

Born in Oakland, and raised in Richmond, Reed tried going to Contra Costa College after she graduated high school in 1989, but "school seemed not to be my forte, thanks to a learning disability. Something like dyslexia." She paused, then added, "I didn't let it get me. I went on and made a life."

She worked for the state, in

child care, making the unlivable wage of \$4.75 an hour. When she saw an ad for an opening with Burns, the need for a livable wage and the love of uniforms came together and she applied. They put her on a construction job at UC Berkeley, in Wells Fargo Bank, at Emeryville and, finally, in Gateview.

With her mother, she is bringing up her niece, her brother's child. She also volunteers at the Boys and Girls Clubs and at bingo games. She says she enjoys paying winners and selling Bonanza cards. She plays now and then and even wins "occasionally."

"I love sports," she says, "Particularly soccer. I also love

movies, and being with my family. I study karate every week, and am working for my blue belt now."

Reed wants to go back to school for training as a correctional officer. But for now, she's doing what she enjoys, and "having a life."

Do you know people, places or groups in El Cerrito, Albany or Kensington that would make good subjects for this column? Write me at 555 Pierce St., No. 443, Albany, CA 94706 or call 510-525-4585. My e-mail is crgenser@aol.com.

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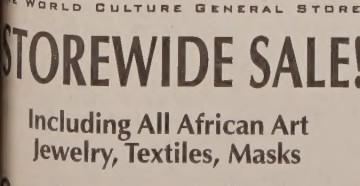
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THE JOURNAL

EDITORIAL

We need to shift gears to ease transport woes

AC TRANSIT is cutting back on its routes in the face of a \$30 million deficit. The Valley Transportation Authority in Santa Clara County is making massive service trims and may delay a BART extension due to a nearly \$57 million projected deficit.

Such moves are only a small indicator of what's happening nationwide: two-thirds of transit agencies have lost riders and more than half have lost money, according to a survey conducted by the American Public Transportation Association.

Blame the economic downturn? Sure, it would have been nice if we'd saved money during the dot-com boom, taxed SUV sales or made other moves to put some of that fat to good use for more BART stations and parking lots, an electric vehicle network and the like. But that didn't happen.

Now, public coffers are bare, and transport services are being slashed fast — ironically, at a time, when many are questioning our continued dependence on foreign oil.

While new taxes and related funding legislation may help, they're no long-term answer.

What we need instead is a radical rethinking, more decentralized transportation solutions and incentives — rather than disincentives — to get us to use BART and other shared public or private means of getting around.

Residents complain regularly and bitterly about the lack of BART parking. If lots can't be expanded, small buses, vans or other networks should be encouraged to address that need; they could be public, private or semi-private.

These vans and other services could operate somewhat like the casual carpool lines, which pair passengers with drivers for use of the carpool lane on the Bay Bridge. In other words, they would focus on key commuting times and on smaller, more efficient means of getting around.

We don't have to look far for new ways to improve public transit.

A group of Oakland religious organizations has organized a van service, for instance, to address the needs of seniors who don't qualify for disabled transit but who still need to travel. In Livermore, planners are working on a diesel-powered rail system that would be cheaper, faster to build and more politically acceptable than a plan to extend BART to the downtown area.

Transportation is a public service that plays a crucial role in our communities. Rather than taking the standard slash-and-burn attitude, residents and public officials should address the transportation crisis with new ways of thinking and a true willingness to consider diverse needs and radical solutions.

NO EXIT

© Andy Singer

BLAMING THE VICTIMS



YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

State Senate

Don Perata: (D-9th District: Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Emeryville, Richmond, San Pablo) State Capitol, Room 4061, Sacramento, CA 95814, 916-445-6577. Fax: 916-327-1997; 1515 Clay St., No. 2202, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-286-1333. Fax: 510-286-3885. E-mail: senator.perata@sen.ca.gov.

Assembly

Dion Louise Aroner: (D-14th District: Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Emeryville, Kensington, Richmond, San Pablo, North and West Oakland) State Capitol, P.O. Box 94249, Sacramento, CA 94249, 916-319-2014. Fax: 916-319-2114; 918 Parker St., Ste. A13, Berkeley, CA 94710, 510-540-3660; Fax: 510-540-3655; 101 Broadway, Richmond, CA 94804, 510-234-0211; Fax: 510-234-0213. E-mail: dion.aroner@assembly.ca.gov.

County Supervisors

John Gioia: (1st District) 11780 San Pablo Ave., Suite D, El Cerrito, CA 94530, 510-374-3231. Fax: 510-374-

3429. E-mail: dist1@bos.co.contra-cost.ca.us.

Keith Carson: (5th District) 1221 Oak St., Ste. 536, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-272-6695. Fax: 510-271-5151. E-mail: kcarson@co.alameda.ca.us.

Cities

El Cerrito: City offices, 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-215-4300. E-mail: citycouncil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

Albany: City offices, 1000 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-528-5710.

Kensington: Fire Protection District 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-527-8395

Police Protection and Community Services District 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-526-4141

School board members

West Contra Costa Unified School District: 510-620-2246

Karen Leong Fenton: school board president: 510-236-8460

Albany Unified School District: 510-558-3766

David Farrell: Albany school board president: 510-528-9209

It appears the city of Albany has found a new fund-raiser, or at least one I have never come across before.

On Nov. 18, I parked on Cornell Avenue for an hour and a half. I noticed there were occasional cones along the sidewalk, which I assumed had to do with local construction.

I parked well away from any cones and was startled to see a \$27 ticket on my windshield when I returned to my car. There were also many other cars parked on the street that had tickets.

Then I noticed the blue paper on the back of the cones stating there would be street sweeping from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Other cities install permanent signs announcing street sweeping days and times, which is a fair and reasonable way to notify the public. Furthermore, they do not prohibit parking for the entire day.

Shame on you, city of Albany.

Rhoda Alvarez

Berkeley

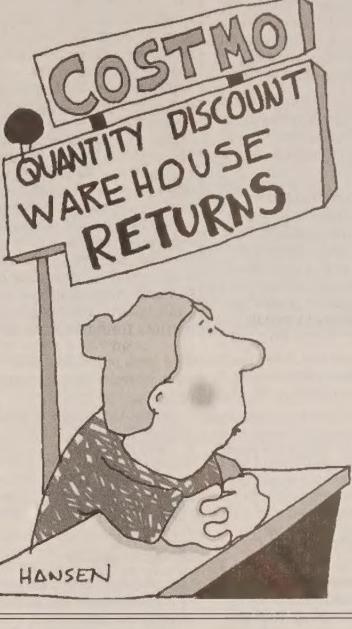
Meniketti will be missed

I am writing to thank you for your article about the late Dario Meniketti in a recent issue of the Journal. He was also remembered fondly at an Albany City Council meeting, where his absence was felt by all.

Since his passing, I have enjoyed

JEFF HANSEN • HILLS NEWSPAPERS

AHHH...THE DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS



SOME THINGS SHOULD JUST BE SOLD SEPARATELY. I'M RETURNING 11 OF THE 12 ENGAGEMENT RINGS MY FI



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tarnished election

Thank you for the Journal's editorial addressing the tactics used by the Sandi Potter and Janet Abelson campaigns during the recent El Cerrito City Council election.

However, asking winners Potter and Abelson, and their supporters on the council, Mark Friedman and Letitia Moore, to investigate their own alleged legal and ethical campaign violations is like asking Haldeman, Erlichman and Liddy to investigate the Watergate burglaries.

Fraudulent and inflammatory campaign literature was widely distributed by these candidates and their backers a few days before the election, giving their target, incumbent Kathie Perka, no opportunity to respond. Abelson and Friedman mailed out smarmy, self-serving "poison pen" letters attacking Perka's ability and character by innuendo.

Money was poured into Potter and Abelson's campaigns by out-of-town developers eager to buy council approval for their high-density rental projects and crowded single-home subdivisions in El Cerrito, which had been opposed by Perka.

I've lived in El Cerrito since 1964 and have never before witnessed a campaign as venomous and deceitful as that conducted by the winning candidates during this election. The triumphant quartet of Abelson, Potter, Friedman and Moore, which now controls our City Council, is already tarnished by allegations of conflicts of interest, election-code violations and possible illegalities.

These issues should be promptly and diligently investigated by the city attorney. If she is reluctant to proceed, I believe objective higher authorities should be asked to conduct such an inquiry in the immediate future.

Joan T. Cohn

El Cerrito

Unfair ticket

It appears the city of Albany has found a new fund-raiser, or at least one I have never come across before.

On Nov. 18, I parked on Cornell Avenue for an hour and a half. I noticed there were occasional cones along the sidewalk, which I assumed had to do with local construction.

I parked well away from any cones and was startled to see a \$27 ticket on my windshield when I returned to my car. There were also many other cars parked on the street that had tickets.

Then I noticed the blue paper on the back of the cones stating there would be street sweeping from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Other cities install permanent signs announcing street sweeping days and times, which is a fair and reasonable way to notify the public. Furthermore, they do not prohibit parking for the entire day.

Shame on you, city of Albany.

Rhoda Alvarez

Berkeley

learning more details of Meniketti's life, beyond his remarkable City Council meeting attendance record (he only missed two meetings in 30 years). He embodied Ralph Nader's credo: "There can be no daily democracy without daily citizenship."

Meniketti is a true civic hero. I look forward to a celebration of his life and his many contributions to Albany at a public memorial being planned for February. He is dearly missed by many, many friends.

David Arkin
Albany

Two-sided coin

There are those among us called "liberals"; individuals who allow themselves to be open to new ideas, to not merely accept every popular notion regarding what is of value without engaging in some critical thinking, and who are uncomfortable with limiting their social concerns to what supports their self-interest.

These liberal-minded persons, also, always harbor concepts which they are satisfied with keeping conservatively unchanged.

Those individuals called "conservatives" are persons who have thus far adequately resisted becoming more liberal. They see the ideas espoused by liberals as ridiculous or naive, until the idea eventually becomes accepted by a seeming majority, at which point they consider it "common knowledge."

Haven't all of the most practical and creative solutions for our social problems contained elements of liberalism and conservatism? If so, it is vitally important liberals and conservatives work together on social problems, respectfully and harmoniously; debating and cooperating, not name-calling and competing for power.

In fact, let's get rid of the whole identity-thing and simply judge the value of the ideas, be they liberal or conservative. We need both. It must be "and," not "either/or."

How sad it is to see liberals and conservatives having almost completely given up on establishing objectives together and working toward their fulfillment. Instead they remain stuck in a constant struggle to keep or gain more political power — virtually using all their energy and time for campaigning.

Ron Greenstein
El Cerrito

A grateful senior

Thanks to Booster News, Albany Senior Center's monthly newsletter, 87-year-old Vi Schefer went home to Virginia for the holidays on Southwest Airlines to visit her only daughter, her son-in-law and two granddaughters, whom she hadn't seen

in years.

Vi, a member of the Albany Senior Center for more than 30 years, was thankful the center included Southwest Airlines' "Home for the Holidays" program in its newsletter. Imagine her surprise when she won the free flight when airlines held a reception, which included entertainment, for all ticket winners.

Vi says the senior center helps her busy and informed, and gives her opportunity to socialize with friends and help others.

All adults 60 years and older are welcome to visit the center at 145 Main Ave., from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Friday.

Boyle is the center's senior supervisor.

Impossible to ignore

What in the world is going on in the city? After lying for a month, Mayor Bates has admitted to suppressing news of his publication because of his opinion.

Bates and the City Council will take a stand to defend the Constitution, yet all took an oath to do so.

Would the City Council have passed a resolution condemning President Bush if he had thrown Florida newspapers? Certainly it would have.

How can we possibly ignore this rotted out of the Constitution? What are we saying to our children and ourselves?

Bates should resign, run again in a special election, and let the citizens of Berkeley decide whether he should remain as mayor.

Lloyd M...

Budget crisis

Every day there is something in the news about the drastic cuts needed to balance the budget deficit and the cuts these cuts will cause, particularly in schools.

It hardly seems good for our state to have these wild fluctuations in our ability to provide the most basic public services such as education, health care, programs and transportation. I wonder why this seems to keep happening every level of government every year?

I mean, we advise our children to bring an umbrella for a rainy day, our workers to diversify their IRAs and 401(k)s, and even squirrels in our back yard bury nuts for the winter. But for some reason, our leaders, and maybe some citizens of our country, are shortsighted and do not seem to take this lesson to heart.

I say we aim for not just a balanced budget but one that allows us to save something saved for the lean years.

James Sch...

HOW TO REACH US

Letters to the editor reflect the opinion of the writer. Letters must include your first and last name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to verification. All letters are subject to editing for brevity and style. Not all letters may be published.

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"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson

Player brings new ideas to board



BETTY KING BUGINAS
Schools

S. PATRICIA PLAYER begins her stint as president of the West Contra Costa Unified School District board, she has three years' experience on the board to draw on, as well as 33 years teaching. She also sought additional training in selection of fellowship board members to help lead the board.

According to the association's Web site (www.csba.org), Player's program consists of 60 hours of instruction and participation, and is "recognized as a model for the nation." It's built over a decade of research and practical application working directly with elected officials.

Program participants attend sessions, which define the roles and responsibilities of governance teams and tools that keep efforts focused on student learning.

The training helped flesh out the ideas she'd been mulling over for her leadership role, centered largely on improving how different parties in the work together.

A key lesson from the training: Player says, is a reminder the board's role is to set policy and make sure the district stays focused on its student

achievement goals. Board members also serve as public-relations advocates to support the school system. But the details of managing the district need to be left up to the person hired to do that job: the superintendent.

The training reinforced Player's desire to refine the way the district conducts negotiations with its employee groups. Many districts, she explains, use a less adversarial — and quicker — approach called interest-based negotiations. Each side, she explains, brings to the table only its top three to five priorities, and a mediator works with the two sides from the beginning.

The current approach takes too much time and energy away from our main job, which is to educate children."

The school district already uses this approach with the bargaining unit that represents administrators.

Another goal of Player's is to make board meetings more efficient.

The purpose of the meetings, she explains, is for board members and the superintendent to

discuss the issues and try to understand one another's point of view so they can make the best possible decisions.

If too many items are on the agenda, or too much time is taken simply gathering information or with various presentations, the important discussions take place late into the night.

She is aiming to limit each agenda to three action items and three discussion-only items. Unless there is an emergency item, her goal is to have academic issues only discussed at the first meeting of the month, and facilities-related issues discussed at the second meeting.

She plans to begin the closed sessions that precede the meetings earlier, so that the public portions of the meetings begin on time.

Information from the staff should be gathered ahead of time as much as possible. To give the public an alternative opportunity to give input and ask questions, she is planning to hold "conversation groups" at each of the district's middle schools, roughly one every six weeks beginning in February. At least one board member and possibly a staff member will be at each session.

Betty King Buginas is a teacher in the West Contra Costa Unified School District.

Audio books make commute tolerable



JULIE WINKELSTEIN
At the Library

of the week:
Children's books are written for springing...but upbringings is a good thing; it decides the fate of a human being."

—Vassar Grigor'evich Bezhin (1811-1841)

WAS RECENTLY talking to my North Carolina daughter about her 30-minute commute to work. "Are you listening to books on tape?" I asked. "I would," she said, "if library had books on CD, and we only have a CD player in the car."

This was a subject she had a lot of thought to, because my family have heard many old stories, starting with "Forest," with Jim Copp Brown (my 42-year-old son) still reading much of it, through "To Kill a Mockingbird," (all 11 tapes), and "Poetry Speaks: Hear Poets Read Their Poetry, from Hemingway to Plath," a three-tape set. Not to mention one of my favorites, an old British reading of "Winnie-the-Pooh," the story I think of as representing life: "Eeyore's way."

Today, I'm going to talk about the many spoken-word cassettes and CD's available in libraries today. If you have never listened to a story tape or CD, you might like one. Maybe for a long time by yourself or with a friend or child, or if you are busy doing something with your hands and eyes, like wrapping presents, but need something for your mind. Or maybe just to relax and enjoy the feeling of using your imagination, while someone reads to you, not unlike the way some of us used to listen to stories on the radio (anyone remember Hopalong Cassidy?)

If you have a book you'd like to hear rather than read, you can look it up in the library catalog, just like a book. If you like the idea, but have no specific title in mind, you can use the catalog to give you a list of books on tape or books on CD available at your library. Both the Contra Costa and the Alameda County Library systems have fiction and non-fiction on audiocassettes and CD's — both in children's and adult's. Ask at the reference desk in your library for help finding these.

When I was commuting to work, books on tape made the commute tolerable and sometimes even enjoyable. In fact, I

remember sitting in the car, once I'd arrived, just to listen to the end of a book. And for me, and many of my fellow commuters, the reader is as important as the material.

One of my favorites is Will Patton, the actor, who, by changing his voice, can become anyone. One book he reads is "Gone South," by Robert McCammon. At one point in the story, when yet another strange character is introduced, I found myself glancing over at my tape player, as if I could actually see the person there.

READER REVIEW: And now, in keeping with today's subject, I have a book review from Donna, for a book she listened to on CD, in her car. The book is "Bel Canto" by Ann Patchett and Donna says it is appropriate for older teens to adults. It is about a "birthday party gone bad. People go to the party and end up being taken hostage by terrorists."

One thing she really liked about the book was the way "the author took people from both sides and went into their backgrounds — how they wound up there." Donna says the reader, Anna Fields, changed voices for different characters, and did a great job.

Comments? Suggestions? I can be reached at the Albany Library or at jwinkelstein@aclibrary.org

BY BAY CITY NEWS SERVICE
The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is urging local residents to limit the burning of wood in their fireplaces during the winter season.

Air district spokeswoman Teresa Lee says that wood smoke can be a hazard inside and outside the home. The tiny particles in wood smoke can be inhaled deep into the lungs and remain there for a lifetime. The smoke contains toxic substances that can contribute to respiratory dis-

Church

FROM PAGE A1

them students like me, were incredibly nice. They genuinely helped you shoulder the mental burden and take delight in your improvement," she said.

"All my old ideas about what the church was like — a place for old and weak people — turned out to be so wrong," she said.

Even a skeptic like Ah Juan says she finds solace in the church. "I am trying to believe in God," said Ah Juan, who was baptized last Christmas. "I think I am getting close."

But not everyone's encounter with the church is as rosy. Many members and former members say the congregations can become battlegrounds, split by the same tensions that divide Chinese back home.

The divisions are a common phenomenon in Chinese-speaking churches, said the Rev. Edwin Mung, pastor of the United Church of Christ in Berkeley.

Sometimes the tensions revolve around money. While those from the affluent island usually travel heavy — with their families and their wealth — to the United States, their poorer compatriots from the other side of the Taiwan Strait often arrive with little more than their bare hands, hoping to strike it big in America.

Sometimes they are political. Taiwan split from the mainland in 1949 after the Nationalists,

a.k.a. Kuomintang, lost to the Communists in an all-out civil war. China has since said it will reunify the island, by force if necessary. The island's independence-minded President Chen Shui-bian has repeatedly defied Beijing's threats by buying billions of dollars' worth of fighter planes, submarines and missiles from the United States.

The Chinese congregations in the East Bay are often home to immigrants from both places, and the church-goers sometimes bring the simmering dispute into the sanctuary.

"I got very angry when people got political and the Taiwanese government in very vicious language at our Bible discussion sessions," said 52-year-old massage therapist Limei Ma, who immigrated from northeast China to El Cerrito five years ago. "Some of my better-educated friends were able to debate with them, I just quit going there."

It is left to the pastors to try to unify their divided congregations.

"We try to educate our congregation to respect people with different cultural backgrounds," Mung said. His church offers services in Cantonese and English to some 110 Chinese immigrants, including those from the mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

"But some people are really keen on politics and some churches can not very well control the situation."

The Mandarin Baptist Church,

one of the biggest Chinese congregations in San Francisco, split into two last year following a long and bitter dispute between groups of enthusiastic churchgoers. Some 80 mostly elderly members walked out of the church on Judah Street late last year and set up their own assembly in a borrowed nursery 20 blocks down the same street. More than 200 others chose to stay at the old church.

People of the spin-off congregation, now named the True Light Baptist Church, said they were dissatisfied with the ways of their former pastor, the Taiwan-born Rev. Paul Chou.

Chou had ousted the church's China-born founder, 80-year-old Rev. Henry Mu and another church executive representing mainland Chinese immigrants shortly before the break-up. "There was a uproar after Pastor Chou did that but he didn't give us a good explanation," said church worker He Kuan, an immigrant from the Chinese capital of Beijing. "That's one of the reasons why we left," he said.

Mu, who is now interim pastor of the new congregation, declined comment. Pastor Chou, now head of the Mandarin Baptist church, confirmed the secession in a telephone interview but refused to discuss the causes. "I can only say we are under the guidance of God," he said.

Wang Feng is a free-lance writer who lives in Berkeley.

Cable

FROM PAGE A1

Among the goals is getting council meetings broadcast, the issue dearest to Larson. "I think it opens up the process, and lets people see what's going on," Larson said.

"To me it has a lot of potential benefits," Maris agreed. "We get anywhere from three to 30, maybe 100 people for some meetings. That's a pretty small fraction of the population. Put it on the cable channel and you get much more exposure to issues."

It's a potential that has gone untapped, Larson said. "In the past there's been some activity, it just didn't sit there," he said.

"But it kind of went to a real low point a couple of years ago."

About four years ago, the city ran a short promotional video for a waterfront park plan, according to Maris, though little else has been done to take advantage of the channel.

The station needs work: The production and transmission equipment is old and there is little programming on the air — right now, about seven minutes out of every 24 hours, according to viewer Larson.

AT&T Broadband, Albany's cable service provider, is required by law to give the city access to at least one channel for the use of public, education or government programming.

As part of a contract agreement, the cable company has given Albany \$125,000 to purchase equipment to run the station.

Recently, the city has made some modest efforts to improve the channel's content.

There's a seven-minute Albany Chamber of Commerce video being played on the station. And the city has begun airing a bulletin board, though so far, only two items are being shown.

Maris said further improvements envisioned by the new committee could come within a year.

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or alopez1@cctimes.com.

Bay Area air district urges limit on fireplace use

BY BAY CITY NEWS SERVICE

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is urging local residents to limit the burning of wood in their fireplaces during the winter season.

Air district spokeswoman Teresa Lee says that wood smoke can be a hazard inside and outside the home. The tiny particles in wood smoke can be inhaled deep into the lungs and remain there for a lifetime. The smoke contains toxic substances that can contribute to respiratory dis-

eases.

Lee says garbage and glossy paper should not be burned. These materials can release toxic chemicals into the air when burned.

More information is available online at www.sparetheair.org.

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Calendar

Submissions to the Community Calendar must be received Thursdays one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-available basis.

Children

Teen Support Group meets twice a month Tuesday evenings at the Women's Cancer Resource Center, 3023 Shattuck Ave. The free group is for teens who have a parent or caregiver with cancer. The meeting is co-facilitated by a teen whose mother had breast cancer. Details: 531-7551.

Check out books from the Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center Library. Spend quality time with your kids, meet with the children's librarian, research your Jewish roots or check out best sellers. The library is located at 1414 Walnut St. Hours: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays. For details, call 848-0237.

Hall of Health, 2230 Shattuck Ave., a health exhibit museum of Children's Hospital Oakland, presents free puppet shows, 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. The Kids on the Block, the award-winning educational puppet troupe, features puppets with such conditions as cerebral palsy, blindness and Down syndrome. The Hall of Health is a hands-on community, health-education museum and science center sponsored by Children's Hospital Oakland and Alta Bates Medical Center. Hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. Details: 549-9682.

El Cerrito offers special programs for children from 22 months to 5 years of age. These programs are designed to offer parents an opportunity to leave their pre-school children in a safe atmosphere under qualified supervision. The program for ages 22 months to 3-1/2 years meets Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. Registration is continuous as long as space is available. Located at 7007 Moeser Lane. Details: Judge, 215-4371.

LGBTQ Parent and Prospective Parents meet the first Saturday of the month 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. with concurrent child care. All groups meet at the Pacific Center at 2712 Telegraph Ave. in Berkeley. Donations are requested, but not required. Details: Anna at familyprogram@yahoo.com or 415-7850.

The Ann Martin Children's Center offers eight "Support Groups For Mothers," sessions for first time mothers and babies their babies under 5 months. Experienced facilitator. Details: 524-0821.

Classes

ASSETS Senior Employment, job training program for income-eligible Oakland, Emeryville, Berkeley or Albany residents, 55 and older, offer classes in Early Childhood Development. Seniors can receive college credits while being paid. Classes start mid-November. Call 238-3535 for more information.

The Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., offers free, ongoing chess instruction Tuesdays, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The lessons range from fundamental to advanced topics, and also casual play. This program is led by David Pruess, who holds the Senior Master title and is one of the top chess players and teachers in California. All levels are welcome and chess sets are provided. Call Julie Winkelstein at 510-526-3720 ext. 19.

University of California Botanical Garden holds a free Sick Plant Clinic on the first Saturday of every month, 9 a.m. to noon. UC Plant pathology and entomology experts will diagnose what ails your plant. UC Botanical Garden is at 200 Centennial Dr. in Berkeley. For information, call 510-643-2755.

Folkdance classes, Mondays 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Arlington Community Church, 53 Arlington Ave. (across from the Kensington Library). Simple, clear lessons for people of all levels. Emphasis is good music and fun. Cost: \$30 for 6-week session (pro-rated fees apply).

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Calendar

ON PAGE C6
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Call at 844-6648 to set up a
session.

Meetings

Margolin, one of America's prominent trial and appeal attorneys, will discuss "Civil Liberties, Terrorism & Security - Challenges for Israel and America" at 7 p.m. on Jan. 12, at Beth El, Arch and Vine, Berkeley. A voluntary \$5 fee is required. For more information, call 510

Miscellany

Leadership Circle, a Jewish club for adults, meet 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays, at the Oakland Senior Center, 200 Grand Ave. The club is a group of Berkeley Richmondeans Community Center Activists who plan day trips, Jewish holidays, theater outings, entertainment and much more. Call 549-0237 or 115 for details.

Improve your speaking skills by attending Berkeley Communicators' regular meetings, the first and third Thursdays each month at 7:15 a.m. in Room 325, Adeline St. Call 549-2547 for more information.

Berkeley Camera Club meets every evening 7:30 p.m. at the First Community Church, 941 The Strand. Share your slides and prints with other photographers are invited to bring field trips. For more details, call 825-3565.

American Veterans Chapter meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the VFW Post 1301, 1901 Hearst St. A short business meeting is at 8 p.m. at 1931 Center St., Berkeley. Call 528-1235 for more information.

Alpha Point Career Center offers free orientations of the resources available to you and the great variety of opportunities held every Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. at Alpha Point Career Center is at 2600 Bancroft Way. For more information, call 848-6370.

Berkeley Avatar Metaphysics meets on the first and third Fridays from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., 2515 Hillegas Ave. Public speaking and metaphysics come together. Call 869-2547 or 543-7645.

Berkeley Toastmasters Club meet the first and third Thursdays at 7 p.m. The group is special in developing its communication and speaking skills in the field of public speaking. The group also learn from through short speeches. Call 825-2948 or 543-7645.

Berkeley Senior Activity Center meets on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 1931 Center St., Berkeley. The center's program of life-long learning is taught by the West Contra Costa Community College. Attend any class or event. Everyone over 55 is welcome. Call 826-9146 or 547-1969 for more information.

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NEW YEAR'S EVENTS

BART — Dec. 31, 6 p.m. to 3 a.m. BART will allow unlimited rides on BART with special Year's Eve Flash Passes. The passes will cost \$5 each and should be shown to station agents as they do not fit in the BART gates.

Available at booths at Bart Stations. 510-484-6000 or www.bart.gov.

ASHKENAZ — New Year's Eve "Balkan Bash," Dec. 31, 8 p.m. This New Year's Eve party with Balkan music and dancing has been going on for over 20 years. This is a last chance to dance the pravo and the chochok on club's old dance floor which will be replaced during January. This year the lineup features "Balkan border music" from Macedonia, Bulgaria and Greece plus a Scandinavian violin duet. Performers include Edessa and Anoush. All ages welcome.

\$18 per person. 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-525-5054 or www.ashkenaz.com.

BLAKE'S ON TELEGRAPH — New Year's Eve 2002, Dec. 31, 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. The evening includes music by the band Plant Seeds, balloons, party favors and a midnight countdown.

\$15. For ages 21 and up. 2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-0886.

CAFE DE LA PAZ — Berkeley's Nuevo Latino y Tapas restaurant presents its annual New Year's Eve Fiesta featuring a Latin American feast and dance band. Seating for the Fiesta begins at 8:30 p.m., and will go until about 2 a.m. New Year's Day. Cost is \$55 per person (plus tax and service charge). There is a complimentary champagne and sangria toast at midnight. Cafe De La Paz is located at 1600 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. The Café's expanded facility offers two floors of dining, full bar and an expanded dance floor. Reservations can be made by phone, on-line at cafedelapaz.net or at the Café. Credit Card or cash pre-payment is required to confirm a reservation. Space is limited; reservations are encouraged. Live music features virtuous Mexican musician Jose Roberto y Los Compadres. The dinner buffet will feature a tapas and entrée extravaganza. Details: 510 843 0662 or 510 843 0664.

CASINO SAN PABLO —

Vietnamese New Year's Eve Dance Concert, Dec. 31, 9 p.m. to 1:15 a.m. The evening includes dancing to the music of The Trans Band. The band alternates between rock 'n' roll music and traditional Vietnamese music. In addition there will be superstar from Vietnam, party favors, a light show and a midnight countdown with a balloon drop and a champagne toast. In the Oasis Showroom.

\$25 to \$35 per person. 13225 San Pablo Ave., San Pablo. 510-547-1212.

CLAREMONT RESORT AND SPA — "Ring in 2002," Dec. 31, 7 p.m. The resort offers a pair of packages for this New Year's Eve.

"Paragon Party," Dec. 31, 7 p.m. This festive package offers a five-course prix fixe dinner, music by a jazz trio, party favors and a midnight countdown and champagne toast. Reservations suggested. \$79 per person.

"Jordan's Party," Dec. 31. The evening includes cocktails, a New Year's Eve Gala five-course prix fixe dinner served from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., piano music by George Johnson during dinner, followed by dancing to live music, party favors, a midnight countdown, balloon drop and champagne toast with hors d'oeuvres. \$95 per person.

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3000, ext. 737.
FREIGHT AND SALVAGE — New Year's Eve Bluegrass Bash, Dec. 31, 8 p.m. With music by High Country plus special guests Dixie and Jim Nunally. The evening features great music plus the traditional assortment of noisemakers, balloons, funny hats and a midnight countdown.

\$19.50 to \$20.50 per person. 1111 Adison St., Berkeley. 510-548-1761 or www.freightandsalvage.org.

HORNBLOWER YACHTS BERKELEY CRUISE — New Year's Eve Cruise, Dec. 31, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Cruise into the new year aboard the Empress Hornblower. The evening includes an open bar, DJ dancing, buffet dinner and a deck-side view of the fireworks in San Francisco Bay. Board at 8:00 p.m. Reservations required.

\$169 to \$199 per person. Berkeley Radisson Dock, foot of University Avenue, Berkeley. 415-788-8866 or www.hornblower.com.

JORDAN'S (CLAREMONT RESORT) — New Year's Eve 2002. The restaurant features seating 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. with a prix fixe five-course menu, party favors and live music. \$95. 41 Tunnel Road, Berkeley. 510-843-3000, ext. 737.

LA PENA CULTURAL CENTER — "Feliz Año Nuevo," Dec. 31, 9:30 p.m. With Fito Reynoso's Ritmo y Armonía. There will be a special New Year's Eve menu in the cafe.

\$20 to \$22 per person. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2353.

LAWRENCE HALL OF SCIENCE FAMILY HOLIDAY PROGRAMS — "The Wizard School of Magic and Science," Dec. 29, 1 p.m. Benny and Bebe, a team of boisterous clowns, present an interactive magic show with a comic show.

Children's Singer Joanie Bartels, Dec. 30, 1 p.m. Kick up your heels with upbeat, world-beat dance tunes.

New Year's Eve Day Party, Dec. 31, noon to 2 p.m. A special daytime party for youngsters featuring lots of hands-on activities.

\$7 general; \$5 seniors, students, disabled and youths age 7 to 18; \$3 children age 3 to 6; free children under age 3. Centennial Auditorium, University of California, Berkeley. 510-642-5132 or www.lawrencehallofscience.org.

OKLAND ARENA — The Other Ones, Dec. 31, 6:30 p.m. featuring Mickey Hart, Bill Kreutzmann, Phil Lesh, Bob Weir, Rob Barraco, Jeff Chimenti and Jimmy Herring. With Medeski Martin and Wood and Hot Tuna Acoustic.

\$75 per person. Hegenberger Road and Interstate 80, Oakland. 925-762-2277, 510-762-2277, 415-478-2277, 408-998-2277, 650-478-2277, 916-766-2277, 707-546-2277 or www.tickets.com.

PARAMOUNT THEATRE — The 13th Annual New Year's Eve Black Comedy Explosion, Dec. 31, 11 p.m. Featuring Tommy Davidson, Sheryl Underwood and Alex Thomas with Host Guy Torry. \$42.50 and \$55.50. 2026 Broadway, Oakland. 510-465-6400 or www.paramounttheatre.com.

SAN FRANCISCO CHAMBER ORCHESTRA — New Year's Eve Party, Benjamin Simon conducting, Dec. 31, 8 p.m. Guest artists: Miriam Abramovitch, soprano; Sharon Bogas, cello; Roya Bogas, piano. A program of works by Haydn, Mozart, Tchaikovsky, Mozart, Gershwin and Porter.

\$20. First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. www.sfcchamberorchestra.org.

STARRY PLough RESTAURANT AND PUB — New Year's Eve 2002, Dec. 31, 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. The evening includes music by Magic City Chamber of Commerce and George Pedersen and The Red Varmints, party hats and favors, a midnight

countdown with a champagne toast to 2003.

\$7 per person. 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-0188.

STORK CLUB — New Year's Eve 2002 At the Stork Club, Dec. 31, 9:30 p.m. Featuring the bands The Lewd, Eddie Haskell, Drink Tickets and The Tramps. The evening includes party favors, dancing, a midnight countdown and champagne toast.

\$10 per person. 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-6174.

TILDEN REGIONAL PARK — "New Year's Eve Tea Tasting," Dec. 31, 1 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Learn the lore and natural history of tea, thrill to the story of "The Great Tea Race" and sample a variety of teas and traditional refreshments. Bring your favorite cup and saucer. For ages 8 and above. Reservations required. \$7 to \$9. 510-636-1684.

"The 21st Annual New Year's Eve Hike," Dec. 31, 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Learn New Year's customs and traditions from around the world on this yearly walk. Dress warmly. Okay to bring a flashlight. Free.

Take Canon Drive off Grizzly Peak Blvd., Berkeley. 510-525-2233.

USS HORNET HISTORIC AIRCRAFT CARRIER MUSEUM — "New Year's Eve," Dec. 31, 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. The evening includes dinner and dancing into the New Year to the swing music of the Cab Calloway Orchestra on three dance floors on the heated and enclosed hangar deck of the ship. Festivities include hats and party favors, a midnight countdown and a champagne toast. Premium reserved seating with dinner will also be available. Formal attire suggested and period costumes welcome. Proceeds from the event go to the restoration and preservation of the USS Hornet, a national Historic Landmark.

New Year's Eve Dinner Package, 8 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The evening includes cocktails, a gourmet buffet dinner, wine, dessert and coffee plus dancing, party favors, a midnight countdown and a midnight champagne toast. Reservations required for dinner. \$115 to \$165 per person includes reserved seating New Year's Eve Celebration, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.: The evening includes dancing, a cash bar, hors d'oeuvres and dessert concession. \$75 to \$125. Pier 3 (enter at Atlantic Avenue), Alameda Point, Alameda. 510-521-4488 ext. 225 or 510-762-2277 or www.uss-hornet.org.

YOSHIS — New Year's Eve Fiesta, Dec. 31, 9 p.m. One seating includes two long sets, the first a solo performance by Taj Mahal, the second with The Taj Mahal Trio, plus a champagne toast and a midnight countdown.

\$100 per person. Jack London Square, 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland. 510-238-9200 or www.yoshis.com.

Today's Real Estate in the East Bay by Marc Guay

INTRODUCING MY NEW REAL ESTATE COLUMN

This is the first in an ongoing series of real estate articles designed to provide useful information to those of you who have an interest in real estate.

Over the years I have found that an educated homeowner finds it easier to make the many decisions that arise during a real estate transaction. It is my hope that these articles will result in you being a more informed homeowner.

Each week I will consider another aspect of the residential real estate market. I will focus on topics such as: what paperwork is involved in a sale; how to prepare your home for the marketplace; choosing the right home for your needs; and how to prepare for taking out a home loan.

In these articles, I will help clarify the complex process that is set in motion once you have decided to buy or sell a home or investment property.

If these columns raise any questions for you or if you would like some professional advice, please feel free to call me. Because professional services are personalized to your needs, I can simplify the often complex process of buying and/or selling property. Please call Marc at 280-2103 and visit his web site at www.marcguay.com

Marc Guay is a Realtor® with Red Oak Realty in Berkeley.

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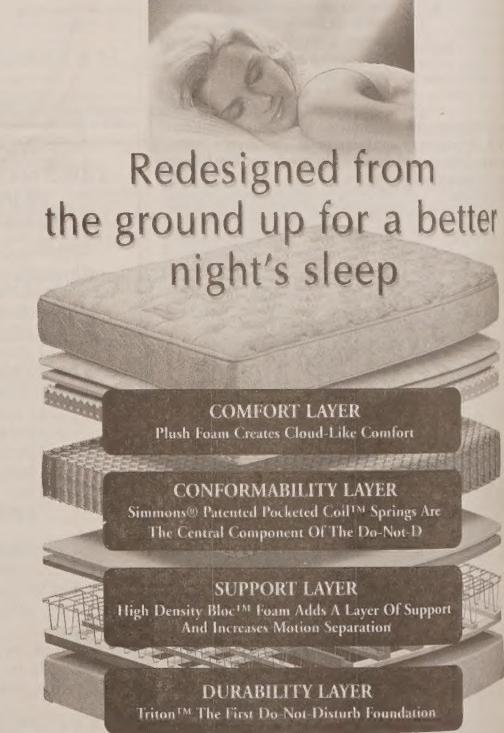
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King set ~~\$445~~ \$1,119

\$640 ~~\$660~~ Twin, ea. pc.

Full, ea. pc. ~~\$660~~ \$740

Queen, ea. pc. ~~\$660~~ \$760

Olympic Queen set ~~\$660~~ \$2,959

King set ~~\$660~~ \$1,839

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\$1,320 ~~\$1,650~~ Full, ea. pc.

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solve

PAGE A1

resolution for next year is to try to be a good dean."

Fred Davis Jackson, Richmond playwright/poet/novelist: "I have two goals. First, I have one song left to do on my new CD, so I plan to complete that. And second, I'm going to publish my new novel, 'An Evolution in Black And White,' by April. I don't whether it'll be self-published or not, but one way or another it's going to come out."

Linda Rosen, President emerita of the Berkeley Historical Society: "I resolve to promote peace — one person at a time."

Fred Fogg, 81-year-old retired El Cerrito teacher and tireless volunteer for myriad good causes, including Habitat for Humanity, Christmas in April, and the Souper Center in Richmond: "My goal is to maintain my health so I can keep on doing what I'm doing."

Sarah Cahill, Berkeley pianist/radio show host: "I resolve to read poetry every day, to help develop my daughter Miranda's sense of social justice (and my own, as well), and to eat actual meals — like breakfast, lunch and dinner — instead of whatever little piece of bagel or bit of apple Miranda has left over after she's gone to school."

Jim Stickney, pastor of St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Albany: "I resolve not to do anything because of imaginary complaints of fault-finders. I'm fed up with my tendency to worry about criticism before it even occurs."

Miftah Leath, feminist activist, Berkeley: "I was raised to intuit other people's needs and to be the first one on my block to rush in and take care of them. That can wear a girl out after a while! So for 2003, I want to be better at setting clear limits. I know she's not dead yet, but I want to get really good at channeling Nancy Reagan so I can just say no."

Jacqueline Lyraugh, the Blue Fairy at Children's Fairylane: "I've already started fulfilling my New Year's resolution. To show my support for the U.N. and other efforts to keep peace, I'm going to buy all my cards and gifts at the United Nations Association Gift Shop behind the University Avenue Andronico's in Berkeley."

Lewis Mahlmann, master puppeteer at Children's Fairylane: "My goal for 2003 is to work less. I'm handing over the reins to Randall Metz. Don't get me wrong; I'll never quit. I still

love making puppets and building sets and writing scripts. But at age 75, running the day-to-day operations is a little much. So I'm going to start pulling away slowly."

Bob Kelso, owner of Toot Sweets in North Berkeley: "I plan to laugh more next year, because this may yet prove to be an episode

of Cosmic Candid Camera."

Father John Maxwell, St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church in El Cerrito: "We have a sister parish in Haiti — St. Elizabeth's parish in Fond-Tortue. They're very poor, and the way they're being oppressed is frightening. So I definitely plan to do more outreach to our brothers

and sisters in Haiti next year."

Jane Bartke, former El Cerrito mayor and custodian of the Sundar Shadi Christmas sculptures: "Mr. Shadi wasn't a Christian, but he made Christmas sculptures because he knew that would be the best way to reach out to his neighbors. I'd like to follow his example and promote

peace in a way others can understand."

Jim Lyon, Vietnam veteran/homeless person, Richmond: "My goal in 2003 is to survive."

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2787 or msnapp@cttimes.com.



John Giola

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Review

FROM PAGE A1

■ Albany city officials express concern about money being taken away from the city as a result of the state's budget crisis. City officials worry that \$600,000, or 6 percent of the city's budget, could be given back to the state.

■ The El Cerrito City Council approves a motel expansion near the corner of San Pablo Avenue and Cutting Boulevard, overturning an earlier decision by the planning commission. The planning commission, in a split decision, says the consequences of the expansion are not well researched. The council disagrees, believing the motel would be an economic stimulus to the area.

■ The El Cerrito City Council chooses three sites as possible locations for a new civic center. The locations include: the current City Hall site at San Pablo and Manila avenues, the El Cerrito Lumber Yard site at San Pablo Avenue and Schmidt Lane and the former Albertsons site at San Pablo Avenue and Portola Drive.

■ Community workshops begin to discuss what kind of development people want to see at the Del Norte BART station. Charlie Oewel, the developer, plans to build housing, commercial and retail uses on two parking lots and adjacent property there.

■ The owners of the Parkway Theater in Oakland, Kyle and Catherine Fischer, bow out of plans to team up with the city to restore and operate the Cerrito Theater, saying it's too risky an investment.

■ Lori Trevino is hired as El Cerrito's new economic development/redevelopment manager. Her job is to put together a five-year plan that would redevelop much of San Pablo Avenue.

March

■ The Albany High School music department holds its annual Groove Fest, a concert featuring the school's jazz, rock and 1960s and 1970s rhythm-and-blues ensembles, plus the jazz band from Albany Middle School and professional jazz musician Frank Martin and his band. The concert is part of an effort to raise \$250,000 to fund the salaries and benefits for the district's three music teachers.

■ The Kensington Fire District continues installing fire hydrants and widening thousands of feet of underground pipes in an effort to offer more protection against homes on the hillsides overlooking Tilden Regional Park. The \$1 million project is expected to be completed by 2004.

■ The El Cerrito City Council, acting as the city's Redevelopment Agency, votes in favor of a short-term lease for the Cerrito Theater. The three-month, \$30,000 lease leads to the redevelopment agency purchasing the building and to renewed talks with the Parkway Theater owners.

■ The Albany Unified School District begins searching for a new superintendent to replace Gary Mills, who announced plans to resign April 1. The school board ultimately chooses William Wong, the former superintendent of the Pittsburgh Unified School District.

■ The Contra Costa Civic Theatre in El Cerrito continues a \$650,000 remodeling project. The project is intended to extend the life of the building, at 951 Pomona Ave., for 50 years.

■ In Albany, the nonprofit organization SchoolCare (Citizens of Albany to Rescue Education) begins a fund-raising effort to fill in gaps in the Albany Unified

School District Budget. The school district is in the midst of slicing \$1.5 million from its \$22 million budget. The intent of the fund-raising effort is to increase the number of people and corporations who donated money to the cause.

■ The El Cerrito City Council and residents criticize a plan to create a mixed-use development on two parking lots at the Del Norte BART station. Several residents object to the number of high-density housing units proposed.

■ Interns at the Albany Chamber of Commerce begin organizing an April 27 video game tournament.

■ Georgia Brumbaugh, a founder of the El Cerrito Garden Club nearly 50 years ago, dies March 17 in Davis.

April

■ Residents clean up around El Cerrito on April 20, Earth Day.

■ The El Cerrito City Council considers changing the city's sign ordinance for AC Transit to build bus shelters which would contain advertisements.

■ "O, Music Where Art Thou," a benefit concert featuring the David Grisman Bluegrass Experience, Laurie Lewin and Nina Gerber and the Bluegrass Intentions is held April 26. The event is a fund-raiser for the Albany Unified School District music departments.

■ The El Cerrito City Council gives the go-ahead to install six stop signs around the city, as well as one red curb — a 15-foot zone where people are forbidden to park — at Baron Street and Fairmount Avenue.

May

■ Relay for Life, a day-long fund-raiser for the American Cancer Society, is held at the El Cerrito High School track. The event, which has residents walking around the track for 24 hours, raises \$35,000.

■ The Albany City Council votes to prohibit off-leash dogs and permanent outdoor art at the Albany Bulb and building ball fields on the plateau, along the city's waterfront. The recommendation is handed to the State Park Commission, which finalized the decision at a December meeting.

■ Albany police officer John Sandoval and El Cerrito detective Robert De La Campa receive officer of the year awards from the Albany-El Cerrito Exchange Club.

■ Former Albany Police Chief James Simmons dies of a heart attack May 8 in San Luis Obispo County at the age of 68.

■ Albany Police Chief Larry Murdo takes himself out of the running for his job as the city begins a search for the city's first appointed chief, after voters in 2001 approved a change in the way the police chief was chosen; until then the chief was elected.

June

■ El Cerrito High School math teacher Jolanta Walukiewicz is one of two teachers of the year in the West Contra Costa Unified School District. The other is Olarewaju Ajayi, a teacher at the transition learning center in San Pablo.

■ The Albany City Council approves an \$18 million two-year budget that lacks any non-essentials. The tight budget is the result of worries that money could be taken away by the state.

■ Real estate developer Jim Busby files a lawsuit against El Cerrito in response to the City Council denying him an extension that would allow him to build 14 homes near Potrero Avenue and Madera Circle.

■ Firefighters and the city negotiate over salaries. Firefighters

say they should receive salaries that meet the average of departments along the Interstate 80 corridor. The city says it doesn't have money to increase salaries. In November, voters approve an increase in the city's paramedic tax that provides for the pay raise.

■ The City Council approves a list of infrastructure improvement projects to be completed in the subsequent fiscal year. Meanwhile, it considers whether to place a bond measure or parcel tax on the November ballot to help pay for more than \$30 million worth of unfunded infrastructure improvements. The council eventually does place a bond measure on the ballot and residents pass it by more than the required two-thirds majority.

■ Grocery store Trader Joe's agrees to move into El Cerrito Plaza by spring 2003.

■ The Albany City Council authorizes an agreement with Caltrans that says the state agency will complete the initial work in a plan to convert land next to Interstate 80 into a park. The weed-strewn 4.5-acre parcel sits between Pierce Street and Washington and Cleveland avenues.

■ "Cherish," a movie about a woman under house arrest, written and directed by Albany resident Finn Taylor, is released in theaters June 7.

■ The El Cerrito City Council agrees to look for a developer to build a 400-space parking garage at the El Cerrito Plaza BART station. The decision comes 14 years after Measure C, a county sales tax measure, was passed in part to fund the project.

■ El Cerrito approves a city budget that creates five new city staff positions, three of which are in the police department. City officials say the city has a budget surplus and is in good financial shape because of careful spending and increased sales and property taxes.

■ Bookstore Barnes & Noble opens at El Cerrito Plaza.

■ Albany High School holds its year-end student art show featuring 90 large paintings done by teacher Ed Hill's advanced art students.

July

■ The Albany City Council approves a \$930,000 plan to slow traffic on Marin Avenue to make the street safer for pedestrians and bicyclists. The city plans to fund the implementation of the plan through grants or a bond measure.

■ Former Albany Councilman Mario DiPrisco announces he will not seek reelection on the council. DiPrisco ran in a special election in November 2000 for a council seat that opened when former Councilman Ed McManus moved out of town.

■ A new \$130,000 playground for younger children opens at Cerrito Vista Park. Paid for primarily with grants, the new "tot lot" features safer play equipment and is accessible to children with disabilities.

■ Photographs by Jim Hair are displayed at the Albany Community Center, in an exhibit entitled "Before and After." The photos document events and people during the 1970s and the 1990s.

■ The El Cerrito City Council approves a \$5 increase for parking tickets, the second increase in as many years. It brings the cost for most parking violations to between \$35 and \$48.

■ The Albany City Council agrees to place three measures on the November ballot: a bond measure that would tax property owners for infrastructure improvements and increases in the city's property-transfer and paramedic taxes. Voters pass all three

in the Nov. 5 election.

■ The computer lab at the El Cerrito "Open House" Senior Center is upgraded due to efforts by two nonprofit organizations and resident Anita Goldstein.

■ The El Cerrito City Council is split over the city's failure to collect business license taxes from some businesses. Councilwoman Gina Brusatori and Mayor Pro Tem Kathie Perka vote in favor of sending the issue to the grand jury for an investigation, while Mayor Janet Abelsohn, Councilman Mark Friedman and Councilwoman Letitia Moore refuse to do so. Months later, the council agrees to a three-month amnesty program for businesses that have failed to pay the taxes.

August

■ A plan by PG&E to move five utility poles on the south side of El Cerrito Plaza delays an effort to realign and restore the Cerrito Creek there for one year.

■ Albany files a lawsuit against the three parties that had a part in designing and constructing the city's community center, in an effort to recoup repair costs for the 9-year-old building. Sections of the building's walls begin falling apart in April due to water damage.

■ The El Cerrito City Council considers creating an arts commission to advise the City Council on how to promote arts and culture in the city. Councilwoman Gina Brusatori and Mayor Pro Tem Kathie Perka vote against the idea but are outvoted, 3-2.

■ El Cerrito holds a golf tournament at Miramar Country Club and raises \$13,000 for the David Hunter Memorial Fund.

■ Dick McSheehy, the oldest living former Albany firefighter, dies Aug. 16 in Carmichael. He was 93.

September

■ Vince Rhea begins the school year as the new principal of El Cerrito High School. Rhea is the school's former dean of students and vice principal. He was chosen following a search undertaken by the West Contra Costa Unified School District over the summer.

■ Ceremonies commemorating the one-year anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks are held at El Cerrito and Albany fire stations.

■ Two remaining sections of the El Cerrito Mill and Lumber building at San Pablo Avenue and Schmidt Drive are moved east to the corner of San Pablo and Orchard avenues on giant dollies in the middle of the night. A six-building apartment complex is set to be built at the former Mill and Lumber site.

■ The 25th annual Solano Stroll is held and draws thousands of people and entertainers.

■ Grace Baking, the popular cafe and bakery at the corner of Solano and Kains avenues in Albany, closes its door. A few days later, the Noe Valley Bakery opens in its place.

■ Four tennis courts are given a facelift and brought back into service at Memorial Park. In 1997, the courts were used to hold portable classrooms while Albany High School was being rebuilt.

■ The El Cerrito Democratic

Club endorses Sandi Potter for the El Cerrito City Council, after a candidate forum in which Potter differs on a number of issues. Potter ultimately unseats incumbent Perka in the Nov. 5 election.

■ Albany Police Lt. Greg Bone is selected as the city's new police chief. Bone is the first appointed chief in the city.

October

■ A groundbreaking is held for the construction of 48 high-tech bike lockers at the El Cerrito Plaza BART station. The lockers allow anyone to use them whenever they're empty. Older lockers are rented out six months at a time.

■ The El Cerrito Democratic Club celebrates its 50th anniversary.

■ A request to cremate nearly twice as many bodies per year at the Sunset View Cemetery raises concerns from residents about the increased cancer risk. Though the cancer risk is considered minute by the Air Quality Management District, the county allocates more time for residents to comment and ask questions about the issue.

■ The Yan Can restaurant celebrates its opening at El Cerrito Plaza with a fund-raiser that collects \$4,200 for El Cerrito High School.

■ Farid Javandeh, Allan Maris and Robert Good answer questions from residents during an Albany election forum. Incumbent Maris and Good, a former city councilman, are elected back to the council.

■ The El Cerrito City Council votes in favor of giving businesses who haven't paid their business license taxes three months to pay up with no fines levied. The amnesty program, which is expected to begin in January, is good for the last three years' worth of unpaid taxes.

■ An election mailer comparing El Cerrito City Council candidate Kathie Perka to candidate-for-governor Bill Simon relies Perka supporters.

November

■ Two groups lobby to save the Gill Tract — a plot of agricultural land in Albany — from being transformed into baseball fields. Urban Roots and the Friends of the Gill Tract create an alternative design plan that would keep the land intact, but it remains to be seen what will come of it.

■ Kensington feminist bookstore Boadecia's Books holds two fund-raising events featuring Pulitzer Prize-winning author Alice Walker and Dorothy Allison, the author of "Bastard Out of Carolina."

■ The Albany community center and library remain open while undergoing \$700,000 in repairs.

■ Sandi Potter and incumbent Janet Abelsohn are elected to the El Cerrito City Council.

■ Michael Barnes and Miriam Walden are elected to the Albany School Board. They join David Farrell in filling three open board seats.

■ Four Albany schools exceed state standards on the Academic Performance Index (API). Each school showed improvement, except

for Albany which dropped a few points from the test.

■ The El Cerrito City Council approves an agreement with the state to buy and renovate a piece of property at the end of the Ohlone Greenway.

■ Albany assistant city administrator Ann Miller, who served seven years as the city's first seven-year-old mayor, retires.

■ Ruth Call, who served as the city's first mayor, Red Call, dies at 77.

■ Albany City Council member Dario Merle, 87, dies.

■ The third assault on the Ohlone Greenway by the city council members, Albany School Board are sworn in on the 10th anniversary of the Ohlone Greenway.

■ Castro Elementary in El Cerrito holds a naming ceremony in honor of Judith Loebach, grade teacher who died in August.

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using supplement to The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Montclarion, The Piedmonter

Friday, December 27, 2002

Section B

face-to-face mishaps

should buyers and sellers meet?

HUMAN NEWS FEATURES

Real estate agents almost always sellers to leave when their home is shown to prospective buyers. Buyers are also advised to let their excitement about the house they happen to run into.

Are real estate agents so afraid of chance meetings between buyers and sellers? Some worry that the buyers could damage their negotiating position if the seller becomes aware of the enthusiasm for the property. In cases, this might be so, but an encounter could just as easily have the opposite effect.

A couple returned to see a house they were considering, and they could appreciate the view. The seller was

The buyers and sellers engaged in a friendly conversation, and the seller with a positive impression of the buyers.

The seller subsequently received offers. The couple he met at the open house offered the lowest price

california median home price rises 21.5%

wide sales also increase compared to November 2001

C.A.R. President Toby Bradley, "While this trend is due in part to favorable interest rates, it also reflects that the supply of homes for sale in California continues to fall short of meeting the state's long-term housing needs."

Closed escrow sales of existing, single-family detached homes in California totaled 542,120 in November at a seasonally adjusted annualized rate, according to information collected by C.A.R. from more than 90 local Realtor associations statewide.

of the three. The seller wanted these buyers to have the house if they were willing and able to pay the highest price he was offered.

So rather than accept the highest offer, he issued a counteroffer to the buyers who'd made the lowest offer. They accepted. If he had not had the personal connection to these buyers, they wouldn't have received preferential treatment.

HOUSE HUNTING TIP: There are many advantages to having buyers and sellers meet, but there are several issues to be aware of. Buying and selling a personal residence is unlike any other business transaction. There is an emotional component that can have an effect on the outcome of the transaction. If you were to meet the seller at the property and have an unpleasant encounter, this could hinder your chances of a smooth negotiation.

Sellers who list their homes for sale with a real estate agent often do so because they don't want to interact directly with the buyers. They want to put the marketing and negotiations in the hands of trained professionals. A buyer should respect a seller's wishes if he does



DIAN HYMER
House Hunting

not want to meet with you until you have completed your negotiations. This includes any negotiations that might be required to resolve inspection-related issues.

After that, it's usually beneficial for the buyers to meet with the sellers for the purpose of learning more about the property. If the seller has lived in the property for some time, he has had time to decipher idiosyncrasies that could take you months or longer to figure out.

Recently, a buyer learned that if she lowered a shade in the kitchen during warm weather, she could avoid walking into an unbearably hot house when she returned at the end of the day.

Make a list of questions you have before your meet with the seller. If you're buying a home with a garden, you might appreciate knowing what the seller recommends about ideal times to prune, or which plants will require more or less water when the season changes.

Ask the sellers if they have any service providers — like gardeners or a handyman — that they would recommend. Write down their names and phone numbers. Contact these people as soon as possible if you want them to continue working for you. It could take you months to establish relationships with new service providers using a hit-and-miss, trial-by-Yellow-Pages approach.

THE CLOSING: If you do meet with the sellers, it's usually best to keep your redecorating and remodeling plans to yourself. The sellers may have a strong attachment to their own taste in such matters. Try to culminate your transaction on good terms.

Dian Hymer can be reached at 510-339-4777 or by e-mail at Dian@Dianhymer.com.



MARK ENGLUND/HOMESTORE PLANS AND PUBLICATIONS

What's for supper?

IF YOU'RE AN ORGANIZER AND A PLANNER, your new home should have a menu desk in the kitchen, so you can jot down items on a grocery list as you think of them. You can even keep a meal calendar here, and organize your coupons in the same place. A computer can come in very handy also, especially if you wish to take advantage of a grocery delivery service. That way, once a week, you can order groceries online and simply wait for front-door delivery. A menu desk is a staple of many newly designed homes. It's certainly a useful space, one that will keep your kitchen better organized. For more ideas, visit www.homeplans.com.

See REPORT, Page B4

Happy Holidays

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RE/MAX EAST BAY HILLS

Bathroom renovation can really add to your home's value, appear

BY CATHERINE NEEDHAM
CORRESPONDENT

When Jim Peters began to remodel his hallway bathroom he thought it would be a simple process. Move the counters here, leave the bathtub there, select a new vanity and sink. Presto! The new bathroom would please his family and help with the eventual resale of his Pleasanton ranch-style home.

Not so fast. Even an amateur handyman and professional engineer like Peters was surprised by what it took to redo the 8' x 6' room. Besides the layout, many more details had to be considered. Which style and material should the sink, counter and vanity be? Should he leave the old mirror and shower tile? What really works best for the money?

Whether you're a do-it-yourselfer or can hire designers and contractors to change the look of your bath and kitchen, you probably face a similar situation. People are swamped with choices for all aspects of bathroom remodeling.

Showrooms and countless magazines feature beautiful bathrooms that make your head spin while complicating decision-making. Read on for what our sources say is currently hot and has value for your kitchen or bath.

People want the bathroom to be their sanctuary. Although not as expensive as kitchens to remodel, bathrooms with that "something special" help sell houses. So what's new in home sanctuaries?

though many people prefer taking showers over baths, Nader says have at least one tub in the house, whether it's in the hall or master bath.

People usually want at least one tub when they buy a home. Nader suggests people match the color of the toilet, tub and sink.

For small bathrooms she recommends a monochromatic look to make the room appear larger and give it continuity. Two built-in medicine chests are an excellent way to have storage room and keep precious counter space.

Also, install as large a framed



A GRANITE bathtub gives a bathroom a whole new look.

mirror as possible. A combination shower and Jacuzzi tub with clear glass shower doors also add value. Marble shower walls or travertine tiles enhance the bathroom's look and worth.

With young children, older seniors and an aging Baby Boomer population, homeowners may want to consider a universal design for their bathroom, adds Little. "Most accidents in the bathroom occur getting in and out of the shower," she says.

Grab bars, benches and toe ledges in the shower, wider bathroom doors (for wheelchairs), and a low shower threshold all add value to this remodel.

"Another plus to this design is that you don't have to remodel again when the kids are long gone," she says.

Little also recommends a shower for two with two shower heads in the master bath if there is no tub. She suggests manmade surfaces for counters and the shower if cleaning and maintenance are priorities. Otherwise marble is a fine choice for counters and decorative tiles for the shower.

A little goes a long way

Like with kitchens, bathrooms have extras that aren't meant to add worth but are nice touches. Little points to floor warmers, towel warmers, hand-held showers on a vertical bar, two clothing drawers per person, steam units for the shower and electrical outlets inside the vanity (not for curling irons).

Nader reminds homeowners of any income that the more they aim for the higher-end look, the more value their house will have.

Cost-control tips

Budgets disappear fast if used for contractors and high-end products. For those with their eyes on their wallets and the trends, don't despair. Our sources give the following 10 tips on cutting costs while adding value to your kitchen and bath.

- Choose quality construction for cabinets. (Doesn't have to be most expensive ones.) Trim costs by choosing less fancy cabinet doors and finishes. Go with the glaze craze. Get the best finish your wallet allows.

- If bath cabinets are in great condition, paint them for a new look and add decorative hardware. You don't have to change everything if the quality and style are still there. Paint is one of the least expensive ways to change these rooms' walls, too.

- Run cabinets to ceiling and add crown molding.

- If you can only afford tile for the counters, get the 12-inch by 12-inch size. They look more attractive and have less grout.

- Under-mount bath sinks.

- Use porcelain tile (less likely to crack) or ceramic tile for floors. Laminating for bathrooms won't add value or impact.

- Don't spend a lot of money on one appliance or element and skimp on the others. The disparity shows. Spread the money around the room as evenly as possible.

- Do part of the project this year and do the rest the following year, as your budget permits.

- Avoid trendy items. Choose classic looks.



TRANSFORMED from outdated to elegant, this bathroom has a new countertop, mirror and attractive faucet fixtures.

Resources

- Premier Kitchens, 1432 S. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-472-0700, or 2 Theatre Square, Orinda, 925-253-9800.

- Douglas Design Inc., 6694 6219, www.douglasdesigns.com

- Amador Plaza Rd., Dublin, 925-875-0745 and 3501 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-284-4560.

- Home Makeover, Nader in Alamo, 925-875-0745.

- Marley & Co. Kitchens, Baths & Accessories, 1432 Stone Hedge Dr., Pleasant Hill, 925-930-550 Hartz Ave., Davis, 925-837-3929.

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3977 Selma Grove - \$459,000
2574 Sheldon Dr - \$252,500
628 South 16th St - \$260,000
208 South 42nd St - \$225,000
232 South 4th St - \$255,000

CITY
1094 Curtis St - \$595,000
1035 Pierce #2205 - \$350,000
104 Santa Fe Av - \$400,000
105 Stannage Av - \$589,000
106 Stannage Av - \$465,000

EL CERRITO
1074 7th St - \$575,000
107 Arch St - \$525,000
1003 Ashby Av #4 - \$341,000
1004 Carlton St - \$10,000
101 Cedar St - \$352,000
10 Contra Costa - \$875,000
105 Deskin #M - \$500,000
106 Derby St - \$425,000
107 Grizzly Peak - \$143,000
108 Grizzly Peak Bl - \$542,000
109 Indian Rock Av - \$849,000
110 Josephine St - \$576,000
112 McGee Av - \$395,000
113 Olympus Av - \$690,000
114 Oregon St - \$500,000
115 Russell St - \$399,000
116 San Pedro - \$550,000
12 Santa Barbara - \$770,000
13 Vistamont Av - \$680,000

SAN LEANDRO
1515 152nd Av - \$287,000
349 Accolade Dr - \$478,000
1218 Aileen St - \$328,000
1603 Bancroft Av - \$382,000
1400 Carpenter 212 - \$219,000
15327 Deetjen St - \$340,000
15219 Edgemoor St - \$330,000
435 Elsie Av - \$362,000
715 Jubilee Ln - \$247,000
727 Jubilee Ln - \$585,500
15360 Laverne Dr - \$385,000
2149 Sol St - \$465,000
343 Thornton St - \$160,000
1818 Vining Dr - \$380,000
453 Violet St - \$294,000

SAN LORENZO
15736 P. Del Campo - \$350,000
15943 P. Largavilla - \$349,000
16000 Silverleaf Dr - \$459,000
15756 Via Arroyo - \$360,000
17205 Via Estrella - \$312,500
17018 Via Margarita - \$363,000

By the numbers

ALAMEDA
TOTAL SALES: 14
LOWEST PRICE: \$180,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$728,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$457,857

ALBANY
TOTAL SALES: 5
LOWEST PRICE: \$350,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$595,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$465,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$479,800

BERKELEY
TOTAL SALES: 19
LOWEST PRICE: \$143,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$875,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$525,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$531,421

EL CERRITO
TOTAL SALES: 6
LOWEST PRICE: \$365,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$785,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$551,500

EL SOLARIA
TOTAL SALES: 6
LOWEST PRICE: \$157,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$425,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$330,333

EMERYVILLE
TOTAL SALES: 3
LOWEST PRICE: \$244,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$300,000

See SALES, Page B5

What would your home of the future be like?

■ Looking at future plans with some help from my friends

We've just purchased a new home (well, it's new to us). There are many features in the new home that we did not have in the old. For instance, there is recessed lighting, climate control and an automatic sprinkler system.

All the rooms, except for the baths are hi-tech wired. This reminded me of a trip, when I was a kid, to the Henry Ford Museum in Detroit, Michigan.

My Dad was big on taking his four children to museums and historical sights (whether we wanted to go or not).

This trip was to see an exhibit of what life would be like in the future. Homes, cars, clothing, the whole shebang. I never forgot it. That was 30 years ago.

So what happened to the gadget that cleaned your teeth in two seconds? Where are the disposable clothes that looked like something the Jetsons would wear? Where's my replicator? I want to push a button and say "Earl Gray - hot".

And we're not as advanced as predicted or were the imaginings of the sixties just too far out? I typed into my trusty computer "homes of the future" and came up with some interesting sites. Come visit with me.

At USnews.com, I visited the home (mansion) of Bill Gates. Of course, everything was hi-tech. There was a huge indoor/outdoor pool. An entire building was an exercise facility.

The home boasted a theater with popcorn machine. A garage was built entirely underground, large enough to park 10 cars.

Since I like a good party, my favorite was the dining room with seating for 24 people.

I saw an apartment of the future named "comHOME". The kitchen was set up so one would never have to eat alone, just invite an on-screen guest. The living room could be linked with another for virtual visits. One live/work situation showed lofts and live-above units, where the apartment was above a storefront (say, my grandpa built a home like that in the 1920s).

At the Jackson County Museum of History near Kansas City, there is a 1953 exhibit of an All Electric Home. A remote switch in the master bedroom turns on the coffee maker in the kitchen. There are moonlight lights in the hallways that come on at dusk.

S MARTHOME.com is filled with gadgetry and remotes of every sort. As you tour this futuristic home, there are links to order items, as many of these hi-tech innovations already exist!

Try these. Remote control drapes. A self-operating lawnmower (how about that Daddy). Open the front door with a keypad, like an automobile keypad. Bathroom floors that warm up.

A small greenhouse attached to the kitchen, to provide fresh vegetables and herbs all year.

Some presidential responses

I asked our local real estate organization presidents what features they thought we would see in future homes. Here are their responses.

Georgia Richardson, 2003 Oakland Association of Realtors president — "In the future, homes will come with built-in

I think the home of the future will have an ultrasonic feature that will cause an instant cleaning of the interior of the home. A homeowner will be able to push a button and the cleaning is done.

Betty Moore, 2002-2003 ARPB president

computers in every room. All the telephones will be visual, so you can see the person you're talking to and they can see you." Pictograph?

Joan Brunswick, 2003 Berkeley Association of Realtors president — "Nobody can know what houses will be like 20 to 40 years from now. However, the trend in housing seems to be in the area of automatic items."

"I would not be surprised if the house of the future would be built with remote control devices that receive signals by phone, while the owner is still at their job."

"Devices that turn on the heat, fire up the oven, heat the evening meal, start the hot tub and turn on the music. When the owner walks in the door, there will be little to do than set the table and eat."

Betty Moore, 2003-2004 Associated Real Property Brokers president — "I think the home of

the future will have an ultrasonic feature that will cause an instant cleaning of the interior of the home. A homeowner will be able to push a button and the cleaning is done."

Patricia Boule Hinds, 2003 Women's Council of Realtors East Bay Chapter president — "Dishes. Everybody hates to do dishes. There will be sonic a dishwasher and the whole load will be clean in seconds. Or better yet, we will have disposable dishes made from organic materials. Use the dishes for one meal and then put them in the garbage disposal."

Vincent Sam Nicolas, 2003 Alameda Association of Realtors president — "I don't think homes will be too much different from today, except for more technical aspects."

Many of the homes being built today will still be standing and the cost of changing substantially



BOBBIE REID
Credit Worthy

client home both in heating and cooling. These will be built to be self-supportive, rather than needing outside utilities."

Getting around

There was a car of the future at that exhibit I saw oh, so many years ago. You could input your destination and by auto-pilot the car took you there.

It showed the driver and front seat passenger turned around playing a game with the folks in the back seat.

Now, wouldn't that type of automobile be an answer for the stress of driving in Bay Area traffic? So, where is it?

Here's wishing good health and prosperity to all of you, as we begin another new year. Happy 2003!

To get in touch with your 2003 real estate news for my column:

■ Send an e-mail to bobbie@reid@mindspring.com
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See SALES, Page B5

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Report

FROM PAGE B1

Statewide home resale activity increased 9.8 percent from the 493,870 sales pace recorded in November 2001.

"Year-to-date sales of single-family homes were up 13 percent through November compared to last year," said C.A.R. Vice President and Chief Economist Leslie Appleton-Young. "Sales posted a 6.4 percent decline last month compared to a October's strong pace."

The statewide sales figure represents what the total number of homes sold during 2002 would be if sales maintained the November pace throughout the year. It is adjusted to account for seasonal factors that typically influence home sales.

The median price of an existing, single-family detached home in California during November 2002 was \$328,310, a 21.5 percent increase over the \$270,210 median for November 2001, C.A.R. reported. The November 2002 median price increased 1.6 percent compared to October 2002.

Some highlights

■ C.A.R.'s Unsold Inventory Index for existing, single-family detached homes in November 2002 was 3.1 months, compared to 3.4 months for the same period a year ago. The index indicates the number of months needed to deplete the supply of homes on the market at the current sales rate.

■ Thirty-year fixed mortgage interest rates averaged 6.05 percent during November 2002, down from 6.66 percent in November 2001, according to the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.

Adjustable mortgage interest rates averaged 4.14 percent in November 2002 compared to 5.20 percent in November 2001.

■ The median number of days it took to sell a single-family home was 28 days in November 2002, compared to 33 days for the same period a year ago.

Please recycle.

Don't miss this week's Open Home Guide on B8.

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Rates based on \$150,000 loan for single family residence. Jumbo rates (loans in excess of \$300,700) based on \$350,000 loan. All rates are believed to be accurate but cannot be guaranteed and are subject to change without notice. Minimum downpayment requirements and other restrictions may apply. Closing costs may vary. Contact each company for details. Points include origination and discount fees. APR = annual percentage rate and is calculated by each company - includes costs to obtain loan and private mortgage insurance if required. Lock-rate lock period. ARM=adjustable rate mortgage. Companies pay a fee to be in this Guide. *Ave 30 yr. fixed conforming with 0 points. Fees are estimated costs and may vary from loan to loan. These are not inclusive of all costs and do not include points, prepaid interest, title insurance or escrow items. Click on "Fees" in "Current Mortgage Rates" section of website + contact each company for details. Copyright 2002, INFOTRACK National Data Services and Knight Publishing Co.

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Real Estate Agents

You put your house on the market, take down that crystal chandelier you intend to use in your new home. Replace it with a chandelier you don't

mind selling. Otherwise, the crystal one could be sold with the rest of the house.

A little-known "Law of Fixtures" says that if an item of personal

Don't sell the things you want to keep

property is bolted, nailed, screwed, cemented, plastered, or built into a structure, it becomes a part of the real property being sold. If the chandelier stays up, the buyer will assume it is included in the sale. Unless it's specifically excluded in the real estate contract, it legally stays with the house.

You can take your drapes because they are not attached to the building. The rods that hold the drapes, however, are screwed to the wall and must stay with the

house. A wall-to-wall carpet is fastened to the floor, so it also stays. A rug, however, just rests on the floor and may be taken by the seller.

Such things can become items of contention, and sales have been lost because buyers know that attached items are to be included with the house.

Although the seller's listing agreement may clearly state that some item does not transfer with the house, buyers may include it in their purchase offer anyway,

hoping it will slip through, or become a point for further negotiation with prospective buyers.

The law of fixtures illustrates just one of many reasons informed sellers choose to be represented in the sale of their home.

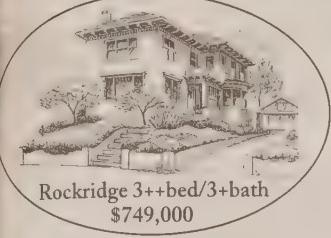
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From Your Real Estate Community

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Happy New Years to the Best People in the world - my clients. And many thanks to all who helped make my 2002 so great.

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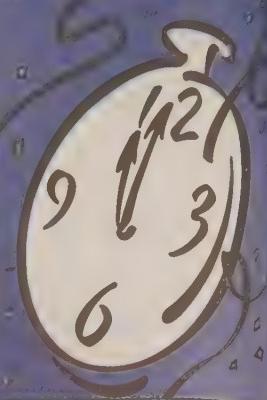
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One of the true joys of the holiday season is to say Thank You for your real estate business and wish you a happy, healthy, prosperous new year.

Carol Heath-Kim
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I wish you a joyful and prosperous year.



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Thank you to my agents and our clients for a wonderful 2002. May 2003 bring each of you health & happiness.



Nancy Blom

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Happy Holidays and Seasons Greetings.

Many thanks to my clients and friends.



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Happy New Year

* From Your Real Estate Community *

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Mark & Dianna Wyman
(510) 522-5827

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bayside-realestate.com
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(510) 522-5827

Happy Holidays!



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Holmgren & Associates**

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Oakland, CA 94611
510-339-2121

*Best Wishes
for a splendid 2003
full of
* Good Health
* Prosperity
* Peace*



Claire Cunningham
(510) 287-9065

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Holiday Season be with you throughout
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(510) 748-1101

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*May your New Year
be filled with peace,
health & happiness.*

Best Wishes



Lisa Friedman
(510) 986-9547

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*Wishing you all a very
Happy New Year!*

Lisa Anderson
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*Special thanks to my family, clients
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Linda Larkin
(510) 521-5210

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(510) 848-2724

2554 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way,

Berkeley, CA 94704

NakamuraRealty@aol.com

A HOLIDAY MESSAGE

PLEASE READ

Although winter and the holidays are now upon us, business hasn't slowed down at Nakamura Realty. Demand remains very strong for homes and apartments. If you're considering a sale, or even remotely thinking about it, please contact us now, as in today or tomorrow. We'll look at what your property may realistically sell for, what you'll probably net from escrow, and most importantly, what your next step will be after the sale of your home or apartment. We realize that it's tough to leave your property if there's no destination in sight, be it relocation or 1031 tax deferred exchange. Beginners to sales and exchanges are welcome.

So, although many people are full of egg-nog and caramel popcorn and cannot be reached because they're out of town, Earning Your Business is still a priority at Nakamura Realty, holidays or not.

Contact us anytime, 24/7/365 to speak with one of our knowledgeable, caring and action oriented Realtor professionals.

Since the Christmas of 1950, all of us at Nakamura Realty wish you a safe Holiday Season and may 2003 be a prosperous New Year!

Eric K.

From Your Friends and Maggie at Nakamura Realty,



Adan P. Sanchez (Hablo Espanol)
E. Steven Malaki
Elaine F. Kawakami
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James E. Obbyana
Lien Hue Ly (Cantonese, Vietnamese)
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Steve M. Yoshimura
Serena Tao McClory (Mandarin)
Shauna Sullivan

HAPPY NEW YEAR

*May 2003 be the best year yet
for you and your loved ones.*

Nancy Hinkley
(510) 433-2842

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California Realty
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Season's Greetings!



*Many Thanks
for your Friendship
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Aliky.Vasdekis@pruweb.com

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Your Hills Real Estate Team
Joan Childs, M.J. Brandenberger, Kris Staples,
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Best Wishes from

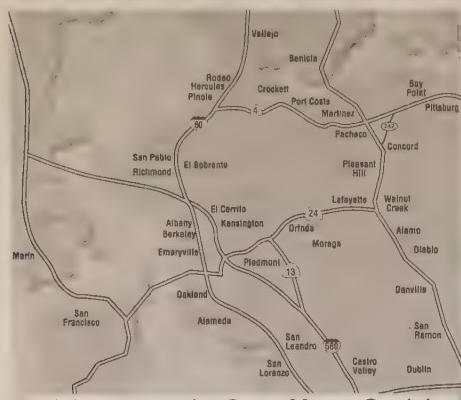
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309 Santa Clara			2BD/1BA	2-4	\$400,500
Open Sunday, www.openhousesameda.com					
Gallagher & Lindsey			Bill Bisaggi		510-748-1108
655 Shorepoint Ct #118			2BD	2-4	\$282,500
Open Sunday, Main Island Kane & Associates			Joanna Letizia		510-523-6095
OAKLAND		Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1715 Grand View Dr.			4BD/3.5Ba Sun 2-4:30		\$1,850,000
The Grubb Co			Bob McRae		(510) 832-2133
661 Via Rialto Belvedere Pacific Union			4BD/3BA Sun 2-4:30		\$915,000
1 Blönac Hill Oakland Hills Pacific Union			Christian Downer	(510) 338-1367	
3860 Hanly Rd. Oakmore Asstair 2-Bell			3BD/2BA Sun 2-4:30		\$775,000
375 Jayne #305 Adams Point Walts & Bennett			Howard Kande	(510) 530-6333	
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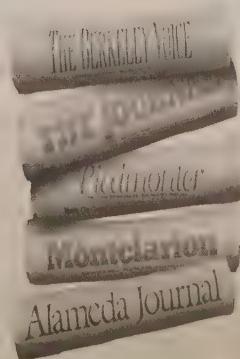
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1bd, \$150, Bldg. A/B, 1bd, 1bath, w/b/pool, 1bd, carpet, cut-die, no pets. \$850. (510) 928-8374

2BD, \$650, 1BA, Adams Point

Nr. Adams Point, Lake, gar, Lndry, Pool, \$120/mo.

(510) 536-4925

2BD, \$225 FLAT, trpc, W/D, dshwsh, deck, carport, 1bd, 1bath, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom in building.

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Considering a redwood deck? What could be more natural?

CALIFORNIA REDWOOD ASSOCIATION
Redwood decks add beautiful, valuable living space to any home. Outdoor amenities like decks, trellises, privacy screens and benches can take the place of an extra room at a fraction of the cost.

In addition, a deck increases real estate value and provides a low maintenance outdoor area that keeps cooling and energy costs down.

The choice of materials is always important. Today, more than ever, families are concerned about the safety of products around the home. Unlike chemically-treated woods and petroleum-based products, redwood heartwood's durability is organic and natural. It is also important to know that today's redwood comes from forests that are managed to protect wildlife while providing wood on a sustainable basis. In fact, four out of five acres of commercial redwood forest land have been certified by third-party organizations as well-managed and harvested on a sustainable basis. More information is available from the California Redwood Association at www.calredwood.org.

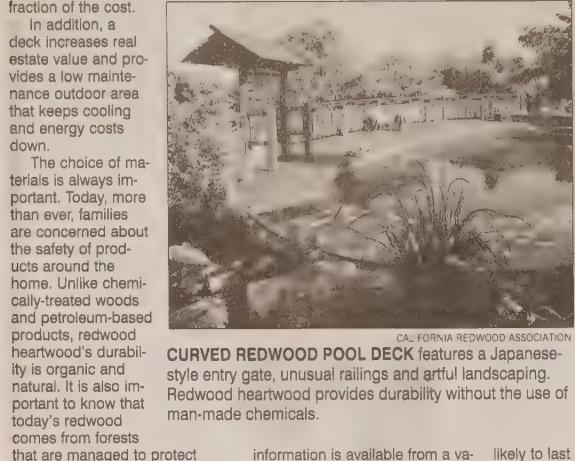
If you are thinking about building a redwood deck yourself, you will be pleasantly surprised to learn that deck building is probably easier than you think.

Helpful design and planning

the front of your house? Checking building codes in your area is an important preliminary step.

Traditionally, redwood has been a popular choice for decks because of its beauty and weatherability. It is lightweight and easy to saw and handle, and redwood doesn't contain chemicals that create special on-site handling or disposal requirements. When you are working on a budget, the economical, knot-textured garden grades of redwood give good value for your dollar.

When working with wood outdoors, remember the type of hardware you use can affect the appearance of your project. Inferior hardware can cause stains and is un-



CALIFORNIA REDWOOD ASSOCIATION

CURVED REDWOOD POOL DECK features a Japanese-style entry gate, unusual railings and artful landscaping. Redwood heartwood provides durability without the use of man-made chemicals.

information is available from a variety of sources, including the California Redwood Association.

First of all, it is important to survey your yard and decide what problems building a deck can solve. Can it level off a sloping or uneven area? Can it turn an unusable side yard into a comfortable outdoor living area? Can it create an attractive, dramatic entry for

likely to last as long as the redwood. It is worth the extra cost to use top quality, hot-dipped galvanized, stainless steel or aluminum hardware.

Other amenities complete the job of making a living center. Planters, benches, tables and furniture can turn a redwood deck into your "outdoor room." You may want to add a spa, privacy



CALIFORNIA REDWOOD ASSOCIATION

SAPWOOD STREAKED clear grade redwood was used to create a backyard deck retreat. The side of the deck provide privacy and add a whimsical touch, above. BELOW LEFT: A simple built with knot-textured construction heart is anchored to the house by triple shade shelters garden paths and rock gardens complete the inviting setting.

screen, outdoor cooking center or shade trellis. However you decorate it, a redwood deck can change the way you enjoy and live in your home. It can be the extra room you always wanted.

There is one more major advantage—what other room can you

hose down instead of vacuuming and dusting it?

Here's help

If you are looking for some help and ideas in planning your deck, the California Redwood Association offers two booklets,

Redwood Landscape and Redwood Deck Guide. Send \$2.50 to California Redwood Association, Deck-O-Center, Dept. D, Suite 200, Novato, Calif. 94949. Visit their Web site at www.calredwood.org.

Learning, improving credit scores

BY ROBERT BRUSS
TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES

Dear Bob: I need to know how to improve my 524 credit score to 650 or higher. Are there any credit repair services to help me so I can buy a home? — Naomi B.

Dear Naomi: Most so-called credit repair services are rip-off scams. However, most large cities have non-profit consumer credit counseling services that charge very low fees for helping improve your credit rating.

You will find them listed in the phone book Yellow Pages, usually under "credit services."

Have you obtained your credit

report to check for errors?

If you have not done so, I recommend you go to www.myfico.com to obtain your credit report and FICO (Fair, Isaac and Co.) credit score, which is used by most mortgage lenders.

For \$12.95 you will receive this information, plus advice on how to improve your FICO score.

Where to obtain excellent real estate forms

Dear Bob: I look forward to your real estate articles, which I read faithfully every week.

Some time ago you recommended a real estate forms com-

pany. Where can I obtain application, lease and estate forms? — Lisa A.

Dear Lisa: I recommend Professional Publishing Company, Calif. They have 100 real estate forms, states, for sales contracts, rental applications, and every other ready for you need.

To order their form credit card, their price

288-2006.

This is a company that

recommend too high not have any ownership firm.

Happy Holidays!

Available by Appointment



Berkeley \$289,000

2/2 - Fabulous opportunity! Home with non-conforming in-law unit; large kitchen, level yard, garage and more.



Berkeley \$1,500,000

3+2 - David Baker "Revenge of the Stuccoids" loft-style home with panoramic views. Easy living near Claremont.



Oakland \$549,000

2+1 - 2,400 sq ft loft with 12-ft ceilings in warehouse conversion near Jack London Sq. Large windows, concrete floors.

Oakland \$425,000

Duplex-3/2 & 1/1 in-law.

Wonderful location near Piedmont Ave. Remodeled baths, classic kitchens with lots of light.

Kensington \$175,000

2+1.5 - Architecturally designed with many redwood details, included with two shops, schools, etc.



Berkeley \$345,000

2/2 - Large, bright condo, 1 car assigned parking; new paint & carpet, close to UC, Telegraph & College Ave. shops/restaurants. High quality throughout.

BERKELEY

2/2 - Large, bright condo, 1 car assigned parking; new paint & carpet, close to UC, Telegraph & College Ave. shops/restaurants. \$345,000

Res. Income - 2 buildings on one lot, 4 units in all - two 2bd/2ba, one 2bd/1ba, one studio. Located in downtown close to everything. \$765,000

2/1 - Needs cosmetics & updating but well worth it! Go to www.bobblumberg.com

\$298,000

4/2.5 - Brand new construction, architec-

tured, quiet Contemporary with Bay

High quality throughout.

2/1 - Classic Laurel bungalow. Formal dining room, fireplace, garage, fenced yard to transportation & shops.

1/1 - Approx 2,000 square feet of raw

space with roll-up door.

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Berkeley, CA 94707

510-527-3387

2983 College Avenue

Berkeley, CA 94710

510-849-9990

2099 Pleasant Valley

Oakland, CA 94617

510-292-2000

Don't miss the Open Home Guide on B8.

PLEASE REMEMBER			
Real Estate Advertising Deadlines			
Space Reservations: MONDAY, 12 Noon		Copy Requiring Typesetting: MONDAY, 5 pm	
Copy & Artwork: TUESDAY, 12 Noon		Open Home Guide: WEDNESDAY, 12 Noon	

A sampling of our current listings

Noe Valley

Recently fully remodeled, this 3 bedroom 2 bath home with parking is just steps to 24th Street shopping and restaurants.

\$878,000

Prudential California Realty

Jim Hedges
manager
sfunionjim@aol.com

Award winning multi location family oriented fun supportive technology driven professional creative results oriented SUCCESSFUL INNOVATIONS DIVERSE

2241 Market St. 2200 Union St.
San Francisco San Francisco
415-575-5599 415-921-0113

Lower Pacific Heights

Beautifully remodeled top floor Victorian condo. Hardwood floors throughout. Granite & butcher block counters, stainless steel appliances. Downtown views. Huge basement with den.

\$489,000

Bernal Heights

Largest Victorian available in Bernal, this 5 bedroom, 3 bath has been completely remodeled from the studs out combining period detail with the amenities of new construction.

\$849,000

15 YEAR FIXED	RATE	APR	30 YEAR FIXED	RATE	APR	3/1 ADJUSTABLE RATE	RATE	APR
5.50%	5.530%	6.125%	6.144%	4.375%	4.304%			

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*5.530% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$322,700 loan and includes points. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 15 years and subject to maximum loan-to-value of 80%.

**6.144% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$322,700 loan amount and includes points. Applicable closing fees will apply. Loan term is for 30 years and subject to maximum loan-to-value of 80%.

***5.50% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$322,700 loan and includes points. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 30 years, three years fixed and adjustable every year thereafter.

Programs are based on primary, single family residences, townhouses and planned unit developments only. No prepayment penalty. Cash out allowed up to a maximum of 75% loan to value. Other restrictions may apply. All credit applications are subject to credit qualifications and underwriting requirements. Rates as of December 23, 2002 are subject to change without notice.



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2099 Pleasant Valley
Oakland, CA 94617
510-292-2000

RED OAK REALTY

SPORTS

• Friday, December 27, 2002 •

Section C

St. Mary's edges Titans

PREP BASKETBALL

Sophomore Thurston is charge and converts free throws in final seconds to secure win over Hercules.

STAFF REPORT

Brown Freeman has graduated from St. Mary's High and it will be hard for the boys basketball team at the point guard who led the team to a state title in 2001. However, Jordan Thurston is making it a little easier on them. Thurston, a 6-foot-1 sophomore, forced a crucial turnover during a defensive charge with 32 seconds remaining and had a pair of game-clinching free throws with four seconds left. St. Mary's defeated visiting Hercules 65-60 in a nonleague game on Saturday night.

Thurston was in no way the hero of the night for the team (4-5), but he certainly

was in the right place at the right time when the Titans' Tito Mays stole the ball with 32 seconds and drove for the game-tying layup only to have it disallowed after being called for the charge. The Panthers held on to their 61-59 advantage and crushed Hercules spirit by scoring a basket on their next possession.

The victory was paramount for a young St. Mary's team that is growing up at a quick pace with two consecutive wins after defeating Woodside by 23 on Friday night.

"It's a matter of gaining confidence," first-year Panthers coach Manny Nodar said. "We tell these kids each day in practice that they made the varsity so they're good enough. So winning two in a row is huge for us."

After being tied 31-31 at the half, Hercules (2-5) found itself in an eight-point hole after the Panthers closed out the third

quarter with a 10-2 run. The Titans put on a frantic run, but were ultimately done in by their results from the free throw line. Hercules shot just 10-for-36 from the stripe, and made just three of 19 in the second half.

Larry Gurganious and Simon Knight paced the Panther scoring attack as they combined for 24 points in the second half. Gurganious finished with a game-high 27 points and Knight scored 14 to go with his 10 rebounds. Thurston finished the night with eight points, nine rebounds and four assists.

Hercules was led by John Winston, who scored 21 and hauled in 10 rebounds.

Albany 62, Richmond 57: In the teams' second meeting of the preseason, the Cougars (3-6) got the best of the Oilers (2-8) once again. Albany had to overcome a slow start to do it, though. Richmond took an 11-8 lead into the

See PREP, Page 2



SIMON KNIGHT, left and Dominic Green of St. Mary's jump for a rebound in Saturday's nonleague game with Hercules.



OAKLAND STROKES

OAKLAND STROKES boys novice "A" boat competes in the River City Junior Fall Regatta in Sacramento on Dec. 7.

Young rowers making mark with Oakland Strokes

Novice group of local team captures four at the River City Fall Regatta

STAFF REPORT
As their classification suggests, the Oakland Strokes groups are newcomers to the sport of rowing. But if early signs are any indication, these crews appear to have a bright future in the sport.

In Dec. 7, the 2002 Oakland Strokes novice crews put on a strong inaugural performance at the 2,000-meter River City Junior Regatta in Sacramento, winning three of the four events in which they competed against crews from River City Rowing, Capital Crew, and the University of California-Davis.

In addition, the Strokes varsity boys won their event handily.

Held before the recent Pacific Northwest regatta conditions were unusually smooth for the novices

in their first competition. The Strokes girls novice crew fielded an impressive eight boats — about half the field — with 72 new rowers and coxswains performing.

In the first heat, the Oakland Strokes "A" boat pulled into a first-place finish in 22 minutes, 30 seconds. Capital placed second in 22:36, followed by River City (23:35), Oakland Strokes "B" (24:04), Oakland Strokes "C" (26:46), Penn (27:45) and Oakland Strokes "D" (27:46).

The Strokes "A" boat was coxed by Erin Schmidt (San Ramon Valley High School-Danville), and rowed by Daniela Hamann-Nazaroff (Head-Royce), Josie Morgan (Oakland Tech), Carondelet's Taryn O'Connell, and Christy McDonald, Joan Zovickian (Piedmont High), Liz Roszel (Miramonte-Orinda), Michele Santoro (College Park-Pleasant Hill), and Mariela Ellis (Academy-Lafayette).

Girls novice head coach Beth Anderson was pleased with the good start.

"This was a good morale-builder, but we've only just begun," Anderson said.

In the second heat, the Oakland Strokes "A" boat came placed third (23:49) with the Oakland Strokes "C" seventh (25:31), Oakland Strokes "B" eighth (28:04) and Oakland Strokes "D" ninth (29:35).

The boys novice team sent four boats to compete, two in each of two heats. In the first heat, the Oakland Strokes "A" boat finished first among all junior crews and fourth overall (19:48), close on the heels of three college-level novice crews from UC-Davis, UCD "A" (18:13), UCD "C" (18:30), and UCD "B" (19:03).

The Strokes were coxed by Zach Vlahos (Millennium), and rowed by Ben Weitzman (Academy), Dan O'Connell (De La Salle-Concord), Brandon Acosta (Academy), Denny Grebe (Arroyo), Sam Baum (Bentley), Charlie Fowler (Arrowsmith), Lief Andre (Miramonte), and Andrew Ratcliffe (Piedmont High).

With Oakland Strokes "A" rowing to a first place finish (20:37), ahead of UC Davis (22:39), Capital (23:16), River City (24:28) and Oakland Strokes "B" (29:16).



OAKLAND STROKES girls novice "A" boat competes in the River City Junior Fall Regatta.

Following the Strokes were Capital "A" (20:12), River City (20:49), Capital "B" (21:32) and Oakland Strokes "B" (23:32).

The Strokes novice boys also fared well in the second heat,

with Oakland Strokes "A" rowing to a first place finish (20:37), ahead of UC Davis (22:39), Capital (23:16), River City (24:28) and Oakland Strokes "B" (29:16).

Head boys novice coach Alex Thomas was pleased with his oarsmen's performance, indicating that they are on the right track to success although they have much to learn.

While the River City Junior Fall Regatta is primarily a novice event, a few varsity boats competed. The Oakland Strokes varsity boys team achieved first, with the fastest time of the day (17:37), followed by Capital "B" (17:49), Capital "A" (17:52), River City (17:56), Oakland Strokes "B" (18:33), and Oakland Strokes "C" (19:47).

The River City Junior Fall Regatta completed the Oakland Strokes fall racing schedule. The spring regatta season, which features 2,000-meter sprints, begins in early March for both varsity and novice teams.



DIABLO VALLEY VOLLEYBALL CLUB 15 Black captured the Northern California Volleyball Association boys 16 regional championship.

Diablo Valley wins volleyball title

STAFF REPORT

During the fall, the boys of Diablo Valley Volleyball Club 15 Black team enjoyed a most successful season. On Dec. 15, the DVVC 15 Black added another feather to its cap by winning the Northern California Volleyball Association boys 16s regional championship at the Bladum on Alameda Point.

During the two days of competition — which consisted of two rounds of pool play and a single-elimination championship tournament — the DVVC 15 Black compiled a 6-0 record.

The Diablo boys enjoyed 2-0 straight-games wins over both Fresno 16 Red in the semifinals and APEX 15 Gold of San Jose in the final. DVVC's defeated

APEX 25-18, 25-22.

The tournament completed an outstanding and memorable NCVA season for the Diablo 15 Black team, which also finished with the highest point total in league competition. DVVC won the league title by accumulating 447 of a possible 450 points. APEX 15 Gold finished second with 436 points.

After a holiday break, the DVVC 15 Black will return to the court. Next month, the team will head to Southern California for a Martin Luther King weekend tournament.

In addition, by winning the 16s Division of the NCVA, the DVVC 15 Black earned a berth in the national tournament in Phoenix next summer.

The DVVC 15 Black is made up of 15-year-old players from Oakland, Alameda, Alamo, Walnut Creek, Danville, Tracy, Martinez and Lafayette. Team members are Amel Young of Encinal High School, Peter Mangual of Bishop O'Dowd, Adam Ungson of Las Lomas-Walnut Creek, Spencer Washom, Mason Cole and Mark Baugh of San Ramon Valley-Danville, Justin Rita of Tracy High, Cory Jones and Tommy Crow of Northgate-Walnut Creek, Ryan Barry of De La Salle-Concord, Zach First of Marin Junior High and Sam Brennan of Campolindo-Moraga.

The team is coached by Allan Muhlich, David First and Ashley Boss.

DeCoud gives nod to Cal

By Joe Stiglich

STAFF WRITER

Pinole Valley High School defensive back Thomas DeCoud has given a verbal commitment to the Cal football team.

Although he still plans on taking recruiting trips to several other Pac-10 schools, DeCoud enjoyed his trip to Berkeley last weekend and said his commitment is solid.

"Coach (Jeff) Tedford is a nice guy, a pretty good guy," DeCoud said. "I've kind of followed them during the season. They had a huge turnaround. That was real appealing. They have a good coaching staff there."

The 6-foot-3, 190-pounder was named first-team All-Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League at defensive back and wide receiver, but he said the Bears envision him in the secondary.

DeCoud was one of the area's better cover cornerbacks all season.

"I was watching my game tape (of Cal) and it looks like they have fun playing defense," he said.

But DeCoud still wants to visit the other schools on his top five. He went to Washington this weekend and is scheduled to visit Oregon State on Jan. 10, Oregon on Jan. 17 and possibly USC on Jan. 24.

■ St. Mary's Steve Murphy orally committed to attend the University of Nevada on a football scholarship.

The 5-foot-10, 180-pound Murphy played defensive back, quarterback, running back, wide receiver and strong safety for the Panthers this season, but said that he was recruited as a defensive back by the Wolf Pack, which finished 5-7 last season. Murphy said that he is also being considered as a punt returner.

Murphy is planning to major in sports broadcasting and was impressed with Nevada's journalism/sports broadcasting program.

"The school wasn't too small or too big — it was a perfect size," Murphy said. "The facilities were nice, and the field was great. The coaches and players were really cool."

Murphy visited the Nevada campus Dec. 6-8, and visited San Jose State last week.

JO FOOTBALL

Contra Costa College wide receiver Ricky Gatewood signed a letter of intent for a full-ride scholarship to Montana State.

"I felt comfortable when I went on the visit," Gatewood said. "I liked the atmosphere of the city, the quiet."

Gatewood, an El Cerrito High School graduate, caught 45 passes this season for 681 yards and seven touchdowns. The sophomore visited the Bozeman campus last weekend. Gatewood, a psychology major with a 3.3 grade point average, also considered Utah State, New Mexico State and Nevada.

ACCAL NOTEBOOK

Rains foil soccer plans

By Orlando Molina

STAFF WRITER

With the recent downpours in the Bay Area postponing several soccer matches in the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League just prior to the winter break, some teams see the extended layoff as a blessing while others take it as an added obstacle.

The last scheduled ACCAL matches were played on Dec. 17. Teams will not return to action until Jan. 7, giving the teams three weeks of downtime from league play. So how will the teams cope?

El Cerrito High School boys soccer coach Fred Gonzalez said his team should have no problems adjusting to the effects of the inclement weather.

"We've had a lot of preseason games. We do what we have to do and we're able to stay sharp,"

See ACCAL, Page 2

ON DECK

Prep boys basketball

■ El Cerrito at Kennedy, 7 p.m. tonight — The two nonleague rivals face off. The Gauchos are led by Jerryck Owens-Murrey, who was named the Most Valuable Player of the Red-Brown Tournament. Kennedy is paced by high-scoring Devin Peat.

Prep girls basketball

■ St. Mary's, El Cerrito in West Coast Jamboree, Friday and Saturday — The Panthers will compete in the Emerald Division, while El Cerrito will play in the Topaz Division. If St. Mary's got past Vallejo on Thursday (result available at press time), the Panthers would play Friday against the winner of Thursday's The Bishop School-La Jolla and Reno matchup. If El Cerrito got past Castlemont on

Thursday, the Gauchos would face the winner of Thursday's Dixon-Liberty matchup on Friday.

Prep boys soccer

■ Winter Soccer Classic, today and Saturday — Two local teams will be competing in this quality tournament. Today at Amador Valley, Berkeley faces Clayton Valley at 3:30 p.m. and St. Mary's matches up with Bishop O'Dowd at 5:30 p.m.

Stars of the week

■ Simon Knight, St. Mary's boys basketball — Knight, a senior center, scored a game-high 28 points, including three 3-pointers, in the Panthers' 83-60 win over Woodside. He also produced 14 points, 10 rebounds and two steals in St. Mary's

65-60 victory over Hercules.

■ Jerryck Owens-Murrey, El Cerrito basketball — Owens-Murrey produced 14 points in a 58-53 win over Skyline, then added 15 points in a 70-60 loss to McClymonds.

■ Jacob Mayers, Albany boys soccer — Mayers contributed two goals in a 5-4 loss to Berean Christian and two goals in a 4-1 win over John Swett.

■ Dea Wallach, Berkeley girls soccer — Wallach produced a hat trick in the Yellow Jackets' 8-0 win over Encinal.

■ Melissa Stallworth, El Cerrito girls basketball — Stallworth produced a game-high 14 points and five steals in a 59-27 victory over Tennyson.

4: Things got a little tense for the Eagles, but they managed to close out a Bay Shore Athletic League victory over the visiting Cougars on Dec. 18.

Berean Christian (4-0-2, 3-0-2 BSAL) scored the first four goals of the game before watching Albany storm back to tie it 4-4.

Ross Crown then fed Loren Baker for the game-winning goal in the 73rd minute to sew it up for the Eagles.

Jon Scoles scored two unassisted goals to lead Berean Christian and Crown added a goal and two assists.

Garin Hecht and Jacob Mayers each scored twice for the Cougars.

Ben Sanders made seven saves for Berean Christian and Alex Peck stopped seven shots for Albany.

Albany 4, John Swett 1: Josh Mayers scored two goals to help the visiting Cougars (2-3, 2-2 Bay Shore Athletic League) take a 3-0 halftime lead on their way to the league win over the Indians (1-4 BSAL) on Dec. 20.

"Jake was shaking things up in front," Albany coach Kitamba Douglas said.

Spencer Dill and Bernardo Simondi also produced goals for Albany. Kyle Blotzer contributed John Swett's goal.

Mike Davis had 10 saves for John Swett.

Berkeley 6, Encinal 0: The Yellow Jackets' Kamani Hill scored three goals in the first half to propel visiting Berkeley (5-1-1, 3-0 ACCAL) to its third straight ACCAL win on Dec. 17. The Jets fell to 0-3 in league action.

"Indoors we work on technical and defensive skills. It's a more technical game," he said. "I prefer to practice outdoors."

Not everyone is as oblivious to the rain interruptions. The Hercules girls team does not see many positives from Mother Nature's latest drenching.

"It's made things very difficult," Titans coach Brittany Edwards said. "I don't want them to get sick and we have very little daylight."

Edwards complained that the sporadic practice schedules along with the holiday season makes it hard to keep players motivated.

She said she would like to move the team practices indoors, but gymnasium time is booked with basketball practices.

"I would go indoors. It can make you a faster player," she said. "You'll react quicker and it will sharpen your decision-making skills."

As far as the playing surface goes, Edwards said there is no advantage when the weather strikes. And a slick, muddy field is just something her girls will

have to live with if they want to play soccer effectively.

"The field is never the same two times in a row," she said. "I told them to get used to the wet field. Games won't be delayed because of a puddle. If they don't want to get dirty, then don't play."

Basketball update

The Alameda girls are off to an 8-2 overall record, to start the week, following a 83-23 win over Irvington last Saturday in non-league play.

Raquel Hyche led the Hornets with 17 points and three 3-pointers. Nicole Catania contributed 15 points. In all, five Hornets players finished in double figures.

The Hornets took command early, jumping out to a 39-6 lead after one quarter.

The Alameda boys did not fare as well, taking a 66-56 loss to Arroyo Valley-Nevada in the championship game of the Las Vegas Holiday Prep Classic's Copper Cup Division.

Alex Fleming led the Hornets with 13 points.

time to time.

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BRIEFS

Coaching openings

Bishop O'Dowd High School is looking for assistant coaches for softball, lacrosse and diving. All are spring sports. For more information, call athletic director Mike Bowler at 510-577-9100, ext. 401.

■ St. Joseph Notre Dame High School, 1011 Chestnut Street in Alameda, is seeking coaches in a variety of sports for its 2003-04 season.

Varsity coaches are needed for boys (spring) junior varsity baseball; girls (spring) junior varsity softball; and boys (spring) varsity tennis.

For more information, call athletic director Dan Curry at 510-814-7146. Resumes or inquiries may be faxed to 510-523-9697.

Baseball clinics/camp

The Cal coaching staff will give hitting, pitching and catching clinics for players 9-17, Dec. 28-29. The clinics will take place on the Cal campus. Players may register online at www.calbases.com or www.oski.org. Call 510-643-2267 for a brochure.

■ Bishop O'Dowd High School coach Joe Kaufman, his staff and his players, will hold the annual Holiday Camp, Jan. 3-6. The two-day camp is designed for players 7-15 looking to prepare for baseball tryouts.

The camp costs \$95 and includes six hours of instruction, a Dragons T-shirt, poster and other items. Information and online signups are available at www.eteamz.com/dragons.

■ The Encinal Baseball Camp will take place from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Encinal High School's Willie Stargell Field on Saturday, Jan. 25.

The camp is open to players 9-14 and covers throwing, base running, hitting and bunting, and infield and outfield play. Among the guests will be former Jets Jimmy Rollins (now with the Philadelphia Phillies) and Dontrel Willis (in the Florida Marlins organization). Also present will be Jethro McIntyre of the Major League Scouting Bureau.

Cost is \$75. Call Encinal baseball coach Jim Saunders at 510-749-9458, 510-502-0567 or 925-629-6905.

■ Strike Three Pitching Academy will hold its 2003 baseball clinic on Saturday, Jan. 4, and Saturday, Jan. 18 at the Piedmont High softball field. The sessions are divided based upon age levels. Players ages 7-10 may register for Session I, which will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Session II, on Jan. 18, is for players ages 11-14 and will be held from 1-4 p.m. The sessions will be run by former UC-Riverside All-American Frank Potestio, who also played six years in the Chicago White Sox, St. Louis and San Francisco organizations.

The cost is \$75 for one session and \$135 for both sessions. For applications and further information, contact Potestio at 510-317-0851.

Umpiring clinic

The Professional Officiating baseball umpires clinic will take place, rain or shine, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. every Saturday.

The program runs p.m. at Lake Chabot's

or shine, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Deer Valley High School on Saturday, Feb. 1. The clinic rules course as well as plate and base mechanics.

Call Professional Umpire contact him by e-mail at theumps@pacbell.net.

Rowing

The Oakland Strokes the premier junior rowing program, giving high school and girls opportunities to compete at national and international levels. The club via e-mail at membership@oakstrokes.org.

Doll

The Galbraith Juniors open to players 7-14 learning the rules and

The program runs p.m. at Lake Chabot's

Galbraith Junior the business community, Alameda, Piedmont and San Leandro involved through group sponsorships.

For more information, coordinator Clarence V. 510-569-5682; or Saem at oaklandt

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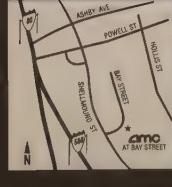
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HILLS NEWS

Arts



BILL MANN

Multimedia Notes

G&E puts good face on things

WHEN: In 2001, PG&E actually called a press conference (I heard it on KCBS) to actively discourage customers from calling in when their power was out, saying it unnecessarily stressed their phone system.

Now, PG&E runs ads on local radio stations giving out toll-free numbers and encouraging customers to call in when their power goes out.

Then PG&E has just introduced voice mail, but you can occasionally get a human when it's overloaded. You may signal.

Now, PG&E has a much bigger-mail system. Very few signals, and you sometimes get glib messages on a 800 line about the estimated time power will be back — like 1:09 p.m.

Indulge the cynicism, but do precise times look like a lie to you? It appears that PG&E has gotten much smarter, as it cuts back repair crews and takes longer to restore, on how to keep the increasingly-in-the-dark public off backs. After all, if you say something as precise as 1:09, PG&E must really be on top of the situation. Plus, they've lined up their PR operation.

PG&E is one of those perennial bashers. In fact, I PG&E stock for years.

Recent evidence suggests PG&E has infiltrated our local company big-time.

PG&E is writing this trying to incoming storm. Losing as inconvenient as it is, after fact of life when most parts of Northern California. But being lied to — about when power is coming back on

power matter. So is getting back later than you used to.

It's in our genetic makeup to our system up and running PG&E's earnest-looking ad on KTVU. But it's also

in the genetic makeup to cut costs on repair big-time. That's where the PG&E effort comes in.

The Santa Rosa Press-Democrat in the hard-hit North Bay rather illuminating report on this the other day, part which echoed a KTVU report.

When Channel 2 asked PG&E ordering its repair vans to take an eight-hour break, the workers' union that was PG&E's decided the workers', something confirmed.

Now, I live for this — getting the power back on in bad weather. For us, this is game in a tired-looking PG&E

man told me. "I don't usually work the eight hours off take the overtime."

The Press-Democrat also reported that 19 independent repair crews who had come to North Coast to bolster PG&E's crews had walked off job when they learned of company's mandated 16-hour day limits, which significantly trimmed PG&E's over-

costs. In Sonoma County, New York Times-owned reported, the number of professional workers at PG&E has been cut by half. It's hard not to see the same thing hasn't come in the East Bay.

"past storms," Eric Wolfe told the Santa Rosa

"you would find many instances of people working more than 16 hours. It would just more money." But that was this is now.

Residents in Sebastopol and Geyserville, KTVU and other local TV stations reported recently, word about the recent extended delays in restoring their electricity — much longer delays after similar storms in the those interviewed fumed.

The unions says it now represents 12,000 workers at PG&E compared to 17,000 just a year ago. But I'll bet the utility no advertising, far more PG&E people, far more PG&E customer voice-mail systems.

Comments? E-mail to Newsman@sonic.net



BLUES AND JAZZ singer Sandra Reaves-Phillips opens a limited run of "The Late Great Ladies of Blues and Jazz" tonight at San Francisco's Geary Theatre, 415 Geary St.

Alternatives to seasonal stage standards



JACK TUCKER

Community Theater

YESTERDAY WAS THE DAY for reveling in the things you got for Christmas. Today — and it makes me feel sort of like Scrooge to even think this — is a time for secretly muttering about the things you didn't get.

The book, the sweater, the bracelet you wanted, even a new car if you can believe some of those TV commercials — somebody didn't take a hint, or forgot or simply couldn't afford it.

Cheer up! Count your blessings. Sunny Tiny Tim now speaking. Here are some other things you didn't get.

This being a theater column, this is partial list of Christmas plays that we could have gotten on East Bay stages (but didn't) instead of the usual fare of "Nutcracker," "A Christmas Carol" (traditional version) and other evergreens of the holiday season.

Storylines are excerpted from the catalogs of Samuel French, Inc., and Dramatists Play Service Inc., and not based on personal exposure.

WE DIDN'T GET TO SEE: "A Christmas Carol" by Doris Baizley is an adaptation with

music of the classic story, initially produced several years ago by the Mark Taper Forum.

A company of traveling players is about to enact the Dickens story. An on-stage trunk of supplies opens and out spills actors, clowns, props, etc.

The gruff stage manager and prop boy check the props, which are shabby and third-rate. But the troupe improvises and begins to create a magical world of make-believe.

Then calamity strikes. The company discovers the actors playing Scrooge and Tiny Tim have abandoned the tour. But the show must go on. The prop boy eagerly volunteers to play Tim. The cynical stage manager has to be forcibly drafted to play the old miser.

See THEATER, Page C5

Freight hosts high and lonesome New Year's

By Brian Kluepfel
CORRESPONDENT

An old Gibson mandolin of Butch Waller's was just four serial numbers from bluegrass legend Bill Monroe's. "If human beings had serial numbers like mandolins, I don't think Butch's would be far from Bill's, either," bluegrass musician Sandy Rothman wrote in the liner notes to "Golden Gate Promenade," Waller's 1999 solo disc.

Rarerly has an art form had such a one-to-one identification with a single person as bluegrass has with the late Monroe. The amalgamation of African-American blues and Scots-Irish fiddle was named for Monroe's Bluegrass Boys, and the Kentucky patriarch shared a special relationship with Waller.

Although bluegrass never had an East Coast/West Coast rivalry, the music took longer to nurture further from its Appalachian source. Luckily, Waller's interest in the genre coincided with its nationwide burgeoning in the early 1960s.

Waller gleaned all he could from touring acts like Monroe and the Osborne Brothers. He formed the Pine Valley Boys with Berkeley native Herb Peterson in 1962, and then High Country in 1968, a band that continues to this day.

High Country, in fact, was the



HIGH COUNTRY with Butch Waller (left, with mandolin) comes to Freight & Salvage on Dec. 31.

CONCERT

WHAT: High Country's bluegrass New Year's Eve celebration

WHERE: Freight and Salvage Coffee House, 1111 Addison St. (at San Pablo) Berkeley

WHEN: 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31

TICKETS: www.thefreight.org

first West Coast group to be invited to Monroe's Bean Blossom Festival in the 1970s. Through seven albums they have become recognized as worthy bearers of

the bluegrass standard, as both performers and songwriters.

"We write most of our own material, and our covers tend to be bluegrass standards," said Waller. One of the few non-originals on their most recent disc, *The Earthquake*, is the well-known "Wayfaring Stranger," given a lifting keen by fiddler/vocalist Tom Bekeny. Banjo player Larry Cohea, a native of Springfield, Tenn., brings a bit more of the Lester Flatt/Earl Scruggs and Stanley Brothers flavor to the mix.

Most other numbers are com-

posed by Waller or guitarist Jim Minturn, but the other band members are writers in their own regard. Bassist Glenn Dauphin has had one of his compositions recorded by legendary Del McCoury, and other band compositions have been covered by Hot Rize and local dobro whiz Sally Van Meter.

Waller got closer to the source of his inspiration for the Golden Gate Promenade album, a strictly instrumental recording that features four Bill Monroe tunes alongside five Waller originals. Reaching further back into the lexicon, the recording also features the Irish standards "Danny Boy" and "When We Were Young, Maggie."

"My brother Bob and I are Kennedys on our mom's side," said Waller. The mandolin-led rendition of "Danny Boy" was a hit at the Athy (Ireland) Bluegrass Festival, he said. The other tune has a more local connection: the Waller brothers attended St. Mary's parochial School in Berkeley, and Butch said that when the Irish nuns weren't trying to keep him in line, they taught him "Maggie."

A hallmark of bluegrass is its strong family connections, from the Osborne Brothers to the Louvin Brothers to Del McCoury's

See BLUEGRASS, Page C5

Tommy Davidson will always be a stand-up guy

■ But the 'In Living Color' alum is enjoying the mark he's making in other areas of his career

By Paul Freeman
CORRESPONDENT

Talk about multitasking — funny guy Tommy Davidson, who headlines the 13th annual Black Comedy Explosion on New Year's Eve at Oakland's Paramount Theatre, has gained fame as an original cast member of "In Living Color." As an actor, he's been seen in "Ac Ventura: When Nature Calls," "Strictly Business," "Woo," "Juwanna Mann," "Bamboozled" and, of course, "Boo! Call."

He also adds humor to "The Fox NFL Show" on Saturday nights. Those too young for "Boo! Call" can catch his voice in the Disney Channel's animated series "The Proud Family."

Davidson says he looks forward to his Paramount gig.

"I haven't done a show like this in a while," he says, "because I usually do the club circuits. It's a different atmosphere. But really, it's just another muscle. You

gotta know how to do it, to do it. I had a whole phase of my career opening up for concerts and stuff where I did that. Then I was on a 'Def Jam' tour, a 'Kings of Comedy' tour, as well as working with Chris Rock, Chris Tucker, so I have extensive experience in theaters."

Originally from Washington, D.C., he began performing at local D.C. talent showcases. He was spotted by concert promoters who booked him as the opening act for such headliners as Luther Vandross, Patti LaBelle and Kenny G.

Davidson enjoyed opening for



READY TO EXPLODE: Tommy Davidson will bring his brand of comedy to Oakland on New Year's Eve.

them. "It's actually easier, because you're the only comedian of the night. They want to hear everything you've got to say. There's only so many subjects you can touch on in comedy, so 10 comics go on before you, you're like, 'Well, what am I going to talk about?'"

See TOMMY, Page C5

EVENTS

COMEDY

KIMBALL'S EAST — "Live Comedy," Thursdays, 7 p.m. \$10 cover. Emeryville Public Market, 5800 Shellmound St., Emeryville. 510-658-2555, 510-782-BASS or www.kimballs.com

PARAMOUNT THEATRE — "13th Annual New Year's Eve Black Comedy Explosion" with Tommy Davidson, Sheryl Underwood, Alex Thomas, Guy Torry, Dec. 31, 11 p.m. \$42.50 to \$55.50. 2025 Broadway, Oakland. 510-465-6400 or www.paramounttheatre.com

STAGE

BERKELEY REPETORY THEATRE — *The Roda Theatre* — "Haroun and the Sea of Stories" by Salman Rushdie, through Jan. 7. The extraordinary adventures of a young boy on a quest to help his father, a famed storyteller who has lost the ability to tell stories. Thursday, 7 p.m.; Friday and Sunday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. \$10 to \$54.

\$42 to \$54; students and seniors half-off. 116 under age 30. 2015 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949, 888-48HRT or www.berkeleyrep.org

SHOTGUN THEATRE — "The Play About the Baby" by Edward Albee, closing Dec. 28. A mysterious man and woman visit a young couple who may or may not have had a baby, and all strands of reality unite. \$18 general; \$12 seniors and students \$10 Thursdays. Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 7 p.m. La Val's Subterranean, 1834 Euclid, Berkeley. 510-704-8210, or www.shotgunplayers.org

POPULAR MUSIC

ASHKENAZ — Ze Manel, Dec. 27, 9:30 p.m. \$12. Beau Soleil, Dec. 28, 9:30 p.m. \$17. Gerry Tenny and California Klezmer, Dec. 29, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. \$3 to \$5. "New Year's Eve Balkan Bash" with Edessa, Dec. 31, 8 p.m. \$17.

All ages. Free admission for children 12 and under. 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-525-5054 or www.ashkenaz.com

BLAKE'S ON TELEGRAPH — Mondays: The Steve Gannon Band, Mz Dee, \$4.

For ages 18 and older. Music at 9:30 p.m. 2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-0888.

CATO'S ALE HOUSE — The Lost Trio, Dec. 29.

Free. Music from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 3891 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-655-3349 or www.mecato.com

FREIGHT AND SALVAGE — "Slammin'" with Keith Terry, Vicki Randle, Joey Blake, Destini, Steve Hogan and Kenny Washington, Dec. 28. \$15.50 to \$16.50.

The David Grisman Bluegrass Experience, Dec. 29, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. \$19.50 to \$20.50.

High Country, Dec. 31. \$19.50 to \$20.50. "Great Night of Soul Poetry" with Dan and Dale Zola, Jan. 3. \$15.50 to \$16.50.

Bluegrass Intentions, Jan. 4. \$16.50 to \$17.50.

Rick Sheet and Brantley Kearns, Jan. 5. \$15.50 to \$16.50.

Music starts at 8 p.m. 1111 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-549-1761 or 510-762-BASS or www.freightandsalvage.org

OAKLAND ARENA — The Other Ones, Medeski Martin and Wood, Hot Tuna Acoustic, Dec. 31, 6:30 p.m.

\$75. Hegenberger Road and Interstate 880, Oakland. 925-762-2277, 510-562-2277, 415-478-2277, 408-998-2277, 650-477-2277, 916-766-2277, 707-546-2277 or tickets.com.

STARPLAUGH PUB — Don Gallardo, Emily Kun, Dec. 28. \$5.

George Pedersen and the Red Varnaments, Magic City Chamber of Commerce, Dec. 31, 9:30 p.m. \$7.

7th Direction, Purple Martin, Jan. 2. \$5.

Sweetness, Merweather, Ben Weaver, Jan. 3. \$5.

Chango Malo, The Slappin' Pistols, Rome, Jan. 4. \$5.

Sundays: The Starry Irish Music Session, Sliding scale.

Mondays, Dance Class and Celli. Free. Free. For ages 21 and over unless otherwise noted. Sunday and Wednesday, 8 p.m.; Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 9 p.m.; unless otherwise noted. 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082.

TRADER VIC'S EMERYVILLE — Jazz at 5, ongoing. With Claudio Medeiros and Carlos Oliveira.

No cover. Monday through Thursday, 5 p.m. Trader Vic's Emeryville, 9 Anchor Drive, Emeryville. 510-653-3400.

YOSHIS' — The Taj Mahal Trio, through Dec. 29. \$22 to \$26.

The Dizzy Gillespie Alumni Band, Jan. 1 through Jan. 5. \$20 to \$24.

Sunday matinees are \$5 per child and \$10 per adult with one child. Shows are Monday through Saturday, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 510 15th Street, West, Oakland. 510-238-9200 or www.yoshis.com or www.tickets.com.

DANCE

EAGLES HALL ZYDECO CAJUN DANCES — Dance lesson, 8 p.m.; concert and dance, 9 p.m. \$11 to \$13. 2035 Alameda Ave., Alameda. 415-285-6285 or dldesmon. home.mindspring.com/Eagles/content-eagles.html

STARPLAUGH PUB — "Dance Class & Celli," Mondays, 7 p.m. Traditional Irish music and dance.

"The Starry Session," Sundays, 8 p.m. Irish traditional music and song led by Shay Black. Sliding scale.

For age 21 and over. Dance lesson at 7

See EVENTS, Page C5

NOW PLAYING

Below are capsule reviews of movies playing at area theaters. The reviewers are Pat Craig, Randy Myers and Mary F. Pols, Times; Robert W. Butler and Chris Hewitt, Knight Ridder Newspapers; Glenn Lovell, San Jose Mercury News; Anthony Breznican, David Germain, Christy Lemire, Tim Molloy, Sheila Norman-Culp, Jocelyn Noveck, Ben Nuckles, Malcolm Ritter and Matt Wolf, Associated Press; Bruce Westbrook, Houston Chronicle; Jan Stuart, Newsday; Stephen Holden, Dave Kehr, Elvis Mitchell, A.O. Scott and Lawrence Venet, New York Times; Evan Henerson, Valerie Lukenski, Fred Shuster, Bob Strauss and Glenn Whipp, Los Angeles Daily News; Manohla Dargis, Kevin Thomas and Kenneth Turan, Los Angeles Times; Nancy Churnin, Gary Dowell, Charles Ealy, Tom Mauro, Dallas Morning News; Christopher Kelly and Robert Philpot, Fort Worth Star-Telegram; and Roger Moore, Orlando Sentinel; Joe Baltatz, Sacramento Bee; Ann Hornaday and Stephen Hunter, Washington Post.

"ADAM SANDLER'S EIGHT CRAZY NIGHTS": In this animated Hanukkah musical, Adam Sandler sets animation back 30 years, musicals back 40 years and Judaism back at least 50. All that in one movie, along with ani-

mated people and animals answering nature's call and moronic songs that mention various bodily functions and masturbation. Sandler stars as Davy, the resident jerk in a snowy New England town. Over the eight nights of Hanukkah, Davy comes to grips with the grief that made him so bitter, makes the life of a local volunteer a little better and salvages a relationship he wrecked in childhood by befriending the son of an old flame. Actually, the film is just an excuse to release Sandler's third installment in his "Chanukah Song." No, it's not really in the movie. It just plays under the closing credits, which don't come nearly soon enough. — R. Moore. (PG-13: frequent crude and sexual humor, drinking and brief drug references.) 1 hour, 30 minutes. D

"ANALYZE THAT": After the box office success of 1999's comedy "Analyze This," a sequel reuniting mobster Paul Vitti (Robert De Niro) and therapist Ben Sobel (Billy Crystal) was inevitable. Vitti fakes being crazy to get out of jail and ends up in Sobel's care. As sequels go, this one isn't half bad. Still, it barely stirs from the recliner to throw us a plot and clings all-too-timidly to the original's structure. But the rapport between De Niro and Crystal crystallizes. — M. Pols. (R: language, some sexual content.)

1 hour, 35 minutes. C+

"BOWLING FOR COLUMBINE": Just hours before they killed a dozen classmates and a teacher at Columbine High School, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold went bowling. Was there a connection? Is it logical to blame the sport or, for that matter, any single thing for America's violent nature? "Bowling for Columbine" doesn't have the answers, and really doesn't expect to find them. For documentary writer-director Michael Moore, the asking is what's important. Moore starts "Bowling" with some riffs on the state he grew up in, Michigan, "a gun lover's paradise." Next the film concentrates on the shootings at Columbine High in Littleton, Colo. We see chilling footage of the massacre from the school's security camera tapes, talk to "South Park" co-creator Matt Stone, once a Littleton resident, and find out that Lockheed Martin, one of the world's largest arms manufacturers, is headquartered in the town. What does all this add up to? Certainly nothing conclusive. Moore's approach may be scattershot, so to speak, but he hits some targets. — K. Turan. (R: some violent images and language.) 1 hour, 59 minutes. B

"CHILDREN OF THE CENTURY": This heavy-breathing biographical romance between French writers George

Sand (Juliette Binoche) and Alfred de Musset (Benoit Magimel) isn't completely devoid of merit; it's a fascinating story about two brilliant, rebellious artists. But the story drifts so inexorably into clichés about tortured (and torturing) artists and consuming but impossible love that you can't help but become more disappointed as each new overwrought sequence plods on. Through most of this, Binoche keeps forgetting how to act like a liberated lady, and Magimel often comes off like an epileptic Sean Penn wearing a bird's nest on his head. There are those who will find "Children of the Century" irresistibly passionate and devastatingly tragic. Others will just beg for aspirin. — B. Strauss. (R: sex, nudity, violence, drug use, language.) 1 hour, 57 minutes. C+

"COMEDIAN": A pleasure-filled documentary about Jerry Seinfeld's return to his roots in stand-up comedy. Director Christian Charles and producer Gary Streiner follow Seinfeld from one comedy club to another for a year as he builds a new act from scratch. His story is juxtaposed with that of Orny Adams, an obnoxious young comedian ravenous for a taste of Seinfeld-style stardom. The film is a little too carefully crafted to feel absolutely truthful, but it is rich with food for thought about the pains of the creative process, the insecurities of artists and the meaning of success. Oh, and it's funny. — M. Pols. (R: language.) 1 hour, 21 minutes. B+

"DIE ANOTHER DAY": Now in its 40th year, the franchise continues with the latest James Bond film. Starts strong with some tight action and clever Bond quips (look for "Saved by the bell," a classic). Bond is captured, thrown in a North Korean prison, then when he gains his release, accused of treason by M (Judi Dench). Temporarily an outsider, he must prove his innocence. The movie fizzles out in the home stretch, despite Pierce Brosnan's expert handling of the role and the appearance of Halle Berry as the latest Bond babe. — M. Pols. (PG-13: action violence and sexuality.) 1 hour, 49 minutes. B-

"EMPIRE": An oft-told tale of drugs and power, with the inevitable rise and fall of a crime kingpin. This is a Latino version of a story that "The Godfather" told with Italians. Vic, played by John Leguizamo in full Al Pacino mode, is the thug with that special blend of street smarts, greed, opportunism and thirst for revenge. The movie is about the turf war between drug dealers, which documents by piling on clichés — the misunderstandings that lead to blood baths, the petty feuds that start wars, the girlfriend who wants her man to go straight. All are given screen time in a production that rarely provides a good reason for us to want to see what happens next. — R. Moore. (R: strong violence, pervasive language, drug content and some sexuality.) 2 hours, 12 minutes. B-

"DRUMLINE": This is a youth-market movie that is warm, fuzzy and entertaining, even if it isn't very good. Devon (Nick Cannon), a wicked snare drummer from Harlem, gets recruited into the marching band at Atlanta A&T. A cocky city kid, Devon immediately butts heads with the fundamentalists-obessed band director (Orlando Jones) and the ego-driven senior drummer (Leonard Roberts). Meanwhile, the dapper university president (Afemo Omilami) wants to win trophies, which have been going to the rival college. But let's get to the scenes that hope to rouse the most emotional response: The drumming is fabulous, and it's a treat to watch small children in a movie theater bobbing up and down to organically

made music. The execution may smack of cliché, and the idea may not be fresh, but sometimes old ideas can serve us well. — C. Vognar. (PG-13: language, sexual innuendo.) 2 hours. C+

"EIGHT MILE": A handsome version of the old American show-business dream story we all know and love so well. Eminem, displaying movie star charisma, stars as a character much like himself — a rapper who's trying to rise from a poor and rough background. We've seen this before — from "Saturday Night Fever" to "Flashdance" — yet "8 Mile" is so well made, you can't help but get carried along. — M. Pols. (R: strong language, sexuality, some violence and drug use.) 1 hour, 58 minutes. B

"THE EMPEROR'S CLUB": At a hoity-toity boys prep school in the 1970s, a teacher (Kevin Kline) tries to teach the disrespectful slacker son (Emile Hirsch) of a politician a better moral code. The movie's setting is so rarefied and stiff that all but the best-behaved may feel initially feel the urge to aim spitballs at the screen. Fortunately, the plot, based on a short story by Ethan Canin, takes a few non-Hollywood twists and leaves us with a surprisingly realistic and honest ending. Some of the supporting characters, including Embeth Davidtz as the teacher's love interest, are too obviously bits of padding for a slim story, but overall, a worthy effort. — M. Pols. (PG-13: some sexual content.) 1 hour, 21 minutes. B+

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Events

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music at 9 p.m. 3101 Shattuck
Berkeley 510-841-2082.

MUSEUM
AMERICAN MUSEUM AND CANARY — "Golden Road to Freedom: The African Legacy in California, 1800-1900," ongoing. An exhibit focusing on the role that people of African descent played in later expeditions and settlements before the arrival of California.

OAKLAND SENIOR CITIZEN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT, "ongoing. This visual oral exhibit captures the history of West Oakland's senior tradition. Featured are 51 black-and-white photographs and recorded conversations, including ones by Dr. Sheila Ford, Ruth Beckford, Amy Martinez, and Alonso Fields.

Monday through Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. 900-A Dornan Drive, Point Richmond. 510-234-4884 or www.gsmmr.org.

rate layouts, as well as narrow gauge and trolley lines. Of special interest is the Tehachapi Pass and Loop on the N scale layout, showing how the multiple engine trains traverse the gorges and tunnels, passing over themselves to gain altitude to cross Tehachapi Summit just east of Bakersfield. In addition the layouts include such famous railroad landmarks as Niles Canyon, Donner Pass, and the Oakland Mole where transcontinental passengers were ferried across the Bay from their arriving trains. Displays are built and operated by the East Bay Model Engineers Society. \$3 general; \$2 seniors and children under age 12; \$7 family maximum. Saturday and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Miller-Knox Regional Shoreline, 900-A Dornan Drive, Point Richmond. 510-234-4884 or www.gsmmr.org.

MAGNES MUSEUM — "Hidden in the Walls: The Time Capsule from San Francisco's Last Sanctuary," through Feb. 16. Inspired by a recent discovery of a time capsule, the exhibition reveals the untold story of a pioneer congregation and the spirit of a changing city. **Stephanie Snyder: Hamakon (The Place)**, through Feb. 16. A mixed-media installation examining the intersection of sacred space, religious practice and historical memory.

SHARING THE SCREEN: ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS IN THE SAN FRANCISCO JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL, through Feb. 16. A cinematic exhibition featuring a dozen film excerpts exploring Jewish-Arab and Israeli-Palestinian themes.

SECOND SUNDAYS — A series of programs that begin at 2 p.m. Free with museum admission. Jan. 12: Family Program: Making History Come Alive. \$4 adults; \$3 students and seniors; children under 12 free. Monday through Thursday, noon to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 16th St., Oakland. 510-763-0141.

OAKLAND STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM — through December. The museum features extensive displays of working model railroads constructed by the East Bay Model Engineers Society. Covering some 10,000 square feet, steam and modern diesel-powered freight and passenger trains operate in O, HO and N scales on separate tracks.

See EVENTS, Page C6

bluegrass

PAGE C3

current band featuring his two sons should also be noted that Jerry Brothers hail from a bluegrass territory in Kentucky and their father, Ike, was a well-known player. So perhaps no surprise when High Country welcomed guitarist/vocalist Bob Waller into the fold last fall.

"It's nothing new, really. My dad and I have been singing together for 35 years," said Butch.

Thus California, known for its avocados and oranges, has also become a first-rate exporter of bluegrass. Much of this is attributable to Waller and others who caught the bluegrass bug four decades ago and refused to let go.

"There are only a few man-

players in the world who have taken the inspiration from Monroe and made it their own, and Butch Waller is in that number," said Sandy Rothman. "In all the years I've known him, he hasn't changed from his original vision. Inspiration passed from one hand to another, and keeps carrying on."

Brian Kluepfel is a freelance journalist who has lived in the 'burbs, the Bronx, Bolivia, and Berkeley. He can be reached at bkluepfel@hotmail.com.

comedy

PAGE C3

He expects to be at the top of game on Dec. 31. "Everyone is happy on New Year's Eve, made it to that time of the year you should be grateful. So usually festive, especially Oakland. It's a great place to play. Everybody's going ready for it."

New Year's Eve crowds include lesser comedians. "I did in a strip club, in the part of D.C. So if I can get audience, then everything's a piece of cake."

He can recall only one person that gave him a hard time. It was in Vail, Colo., where the snow was like 99 percent 60-degree white males. Tim Allen was before me, doing John Goodman and Black & Decker jokes.

I have any of those. You know what I mean? So Tim killed him and here I come, "You have roaches?"

New Year's Eve, his set over a wide range of topics. It's been a long year; So it's snipers, Michael Jackson, Whitney Houston. It's in review."

I'll also do some impressions. You can't leave those out. You expect those of me now

Prince, Lou Rawls, Stevie Wonder, Jim Carrey, the two brothers and David Alan Grier. It's hard to work on new material sometimes, because people yell out the old stuff. Know my bits. I've got three very special people. People got that at home. They yell for stuff in Living Color." Too, I say, I'm here. I'm not a tape, actually here."

"Living Color" ignited numerous careers, including those of Davidson, Jim Carrey, the two brothers and David Alan Grier. It's like "Saturday Night Live" has given us all the opportunities to do things all of the time right now."

He knew then that, if given opportunity, he would break through. "I always knew that I had the talent."

He originally dreamed of being a singing star. "I wasn't a big fan of comedy. I was a music guy. Stevie Wonder, Earth Wind & Fire, the Jackson Five. I was exposed to classic soul music. I fell in love with it because a friend asked me to do it, be-

cause he thought I was funny. I watched Eddie Murphy. I watched Richard Pryor. And I thought both of them were brilliant. But I never thought about doing that stuff."

"But sure enough, once I started busting my ass, working hard at it, the next thing you know, I was on their level. The next thing you know, I was born. Now I'm my own person. I have my own name. It's like, there's Eddie Murphy; there's Richard Pryor; then there's me."

Like Murphy and Pryor, Davidson is making his mark on the big screen. "I love all the accolades that come out of it. More people get to see the movie than a comedy show."

He's weighing potential projects. "We're trying to get the right movie. I love all genres. I'd love to do something like 'Bad Boys.' But it doesn't matter, just as long as it's good. I like sci-fi, horror, comedy, drama. I'd like to do the Sam Cooke story, the Sammy Davis, Jr. story. There's a wish list. Just give me a good script. Have talent, will do."

He'll never give up stand-up, however. "I wouldn't be happy. I like making people laugh. And me laughing, it brings me up, too. I can't get in a bad mood, hardly."

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"You know what I mean? So Tim killed him and here I come, 'You have roaches?'

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Theater

FROM PAGE C3

The rag-tag troupe proceeds to act out the story, creating fog, snow, fire and ghosts through mime. In time, this sorry bunch of seedy thespians becomes the characters of the story, and are pulled miraculously into the life of Ebenezer Scrooge. The Christmas spirit works its magic and warms the heart of Scrooge as well as the old stage manager. (Dramatist Play Service, Inc.)

Actually, this sounds like a lot of fun.

STILL IN SANTA'S PACK: Another play we didn't get for Christmas is "Second Marriage of Santa Claus" by John Kirkpatrick.

At curtain rise we meet a mother whose nerves are frayed and temper is rising by the senseless barter and exchange of presents. A father growls about the high cost of all things Yuletide. Daughter Emmy's romance is all but wrecked by the misdirected generosity of her aunt.

"Only the young man and

Emmy seem to know what Christmas is really for, and only when Emmy elopes with Santa Claus are we given some hope commercialism may someday cease to surround the birthday of Jesus." (Samuel French, Inc.)

MAYBE NEXT CHRIST-

MAS: Finally, we didn't get for Christmas "The Salvation of Iggy Scrooge." The musical's book is by Larry Larsen and Levi Lee. Music by Edd Key.

Okay passengers. Seat belts fastened? Trays in the upright position? Here we go:

Ebenezer is a burned-out misanthropic superstar in this version. It's New Year's Eve and he's snarling. Suddenly up pops a top-of-the-charts gaggle of ghosts. We're talking legends, folks.

There's Buddy Holly, Bob Marley, King Elvis. They've come to boogie with Iggy and set his warped values straight.

Let's let the Samuel French, Inc., catalog description take it from there:

"The rock icons cook up a jambalaya of reggae, Cajun, rockabilly and heavy-metal numbers in this inventive

Christmas offering that reverberates with saucy lampoonery, show-stopping tunes and characters that never occurred to Dickens."

Even the rock-challenged might get a metallic bang out of this one.

Eggnog, anyone?

BACK TO PLANET

EARTH: That last item provides a neat segue into the here-and-now reality of Planet Earth.

Sandra Reaves-Phillips, acclaimed blues and jazz singer, opens a limited run tonight at San Francisco's Geary Theatre, 415 Geary St., of "The Late Great Ladies of Blues and Jazz."

Accompanied by her "All-Star Jazz Band," Reaves-Phillips recreates the vocal styles and star presence of such legends as Billie Holiday, Bessie Smith, Dinah Washington, Ma Rainey, Ethel Waters and Mahalia Jackson.

Here's a sample of tunes in this cavalcade through 70 years of musical history and night-club fashions. Each characterization includes several selections:

"Strut Miss Lizzie" (Ma Rainey), "Kitchen Man" (Smith). "His Eye Is On the Sparrow" (Waters). "Solitude" (Holiday), "Trouble, Trouble" (Washington) and a testimonial as Mahalia Jackson.

This is a presentation of the American Conservatory Theatre by arrangement with Arthur Shafrazi International, Ltd.

Showtime tonight and Saturday and Dec. 31 is 9 p.m. Show starts at 8 p.m. on Dec. 29 and 30.

Tickets for "The Late Great Ladies of Blues and Jazz" range from \$14 to \$50. They can be purchased at the A.C.T. box office, 415-749-2228, or online at www.aact-sf.org.

Send items of interest to Jack Tucker c/o 4301 Lakeside Drive, Richmond, CA, 94806; fax to 510-262-2776; e-mail to jtucker@cttimes.com, or call 510-262-2768. Include a contact name and number.

of threat. Basically, "Nemesis" plays like an extended episode of the TV series, one that would rank somewhere in the middle in terms of quality. — G. Whipple. (PG-13; sci-fi action violence and peril and a scene of sexual content.) 1 hour, 56 minutes. C-

"TREASURE PLANET": From the writing/directing team that brought us "Aladdin," "Hercules" and "The Little Mermaid," comes the most ill-conceived animated movie of the year. Robert Louis Stevenson's adventure story "Treasure Island" is relocated to outer space, complete with gassy aliens, the dumber pop songs Disney can't live without, laser guns and regular explosions. Long John Silver is a cyborg. Good grief. What's next, Huck Finn cruising the Milky Way with a Klingon named Jim? — M. Pols. (PG; action-adventure and peril.) 1 hour, 35 minutes. C-

"SOLARIS": In this remake of Andrei Tarkovsky's 1972 Russian classic tale of spooky oddness aboard a distant space station, writer/director Steven Soderbergh pays homage to the science fiction of his youth, sparsely on the gadgetry, heavy on the philosophy. George Clooney stars as a psychologist who goes to investigate and falls prey to the seductive powers of the planet Solaris.

Natascha McElhone plays his supposedly dead wife, who appears aboard the space station. The movie is hampered by its focus on their bloodless love story, but there's enough provocative "2001"-style material here to salvage the movie. — M. Pols. (PG-13; language, sexual references.) 1 hour, 43 minutes. C

"PERSONAL VELOCITY": Taken from writer/director Rebecca Miller's own short stories, "Velocity" sketches three different characters on the edge. Embodied by career-best performances from Kyra Sedgwick, Parker Posey and Fairuza Balk, these people earn hard-won breakthroughs. Sedgwick is the first segment's Delta, a sex-loving teenager turned abused working-class mother.

Posy's Greta is a Manhattan boot editor who has never forgiven her successful dad for dumping her mom.

Not quite grown up is Balk's pregnant punkette, Paula. All great stuff. And all marred by godawful

voice-over narration that tells us what the characters are thinking and feeling when their actions and expressions would do the job. — B.

Strauss. (R; sex, violence, nudity, language.) 1 hour, 30 minutes. B

"THE LAST KISS" ("L'Ultimo Bacio"): This lively Italian movie is being billed as a romantic comedy.

Harumph. There's certainly romance, and some comedy, but this is closer to a brutal war movie, set within the battle of the sexes. The soldiers on these front lines are a group of young marrieds and almost marrieds, doing hand-to-hand combat over issues of commitment, fidelity and responsibility.

Our so-called 29-year-old hero, Stefano, is bored with his pregnant girlfriend, so he starts a fling with a luscious but vapid high school student.

Writer/director Gabriele Muccino's take on relationships is acute and refreshingly honest, but so scathing that it may make most of the audience feel like kissing off altogether. — M. Pols. (R; language, sexuality and some drug use.) 1 hour, 57 minutes. (In Italian, with English subtitles.) B

"THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE TWO TOWERS": The second installment of director Peter Jackson's big screen adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien's great trilogy is as intoxicating as last year's "Fellowship." The fellowship is broken into groups of three, and Jackson expertly weaves together their three distinct journeys. He takes as his centerpiece a scene Tolkien devoted only a dozen or so pages to, the battle to defend Helm's Deep, sweet and sassy, but not afraid of conflict. Its ethnic milieu is genuine, therefore specific, but many of the themes are universal. — C. Vognar. (PG-13; language, mild sexual content.) 1 hour, 30 minutes. B

"THE SANTA CLAUSE 2": In the original film, Tim Allen played Scott Calvin, a divorced, disgruntled and sardonically funny dad who was

the greatest machine in the history of pop music. — A. Hornday. (PG; language.) 1 hour, 48 minutes. B

"STAR TREK: NEMESIS": The latest voyage into the final frontier finds the Enterprise gang wading into the middle of a Romulan civil war. One Reman is really miffed; his name is Shinzon (Tom Hardy), and he's a clone of Captain Picard (Patrick Stewart), bio-engineered to take the good captain's place in some far-fetched battle plan. But dressed in purple spandex and leather, he looks a lot like Dr. Evil dressed up in a Halloween Jacko costume, so it's hard to take him too seriously as any kind

of threat. Basically, "Nemesis" plays like an extended episode of the TV series, one that would rank somewhere in the middle in terms of quality. — G. Whipple. (PG-13; sci-fi action violence and peril and a scene of sexual content.) 1 hour, 56 minutes. C-

"THE WAY HOME": 7-year-old Sang-woo arrives in a remote, primitive South Korean mountain region with his mother, who dumps him on her own mother, mute and bent with age. She promises to return in about two months. Sang-woo reacts with predictable rage and doesn't realize or care that his grandmother, although she cannot speak, can hear him when he exclaims to her that she's stupid. The woman unwaveringly responds to this and much more bratty behavior with unconditional love.

Among the first South Korean films to receive major studio distribution, "The Way Home" is a loving little movie of considerable appeal. — K. Thomas. (PG; mild thematic elements and language.) 1 hour, 25 minutes. B

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Reviews

FROM PAGE C4

second installment of J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series is bound to make a few adults restless. School is back in session and dark forces are brewing under Hogwarts, with a plan for ethnic cleansing of any wizards and witches who have Muggle blood.

Witches like — shudder — Hermoine. Harry must save the day. As charming and well-cast as the first movie, with some spiffy special effects, but less thrilling by virtue of its familiarity, not to mention its refusal to end. — M. Pols. (PG-13; epic battle sequences and scary images.) 2 hours, 59 minutes. A-

"MAID IN MANHATTAN": One of those romantic comedies where it is given one lover will turn to the other at some point and say with shocked disbelief, "Is this true?" Hard to worry much, though, when our heroine Marisa's (Jennifer Lopez) big secret is that she's a hotel maid, an industrious, clever and ambitious service industry employee, instead of a rich dilettante. The deluded object of her affection is blue-blood politician Chris (Ralph Macchio), a perky popular cheerleader with a mean streak. She acquires a pair of earrings with magical powers, and when she loses one of them, it's found by a thirtysomething criminal (Rob Schneider). Overnight, the earrings cause the two characters to change bodies. So Jessica wakes up in her own bedroom, but in Schneiders' body, and vice versa. Most of the action focuses on Jessica's personality, which inhabits the Schneiders' body, allowing the comedian to pretend to be a girl. Unfortunately, it's not that funny. — C. Ealy.

(PG-13; sexuality, drug references, language, crude humor.) 1 hour, 41 minutes. D+

"JACKASS: THE MOVIE": The gross and raunchy MTV show makes its big screen debut with Johnny Knoxville and company doing pointless stunts that usually involve bodily injury. It's crude, obnoxious and exactly what you'd expect. — S. Norman-Culp. (R; dangerous sometimes extremely crude stunts, language and nudity.) 1 hour, 30 minutes. D

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Harumph. There's certainly romance, and some comedy, but this is closer to a brutal war movie, set within the battle of the sexes. The soldiers on these front lines are a group of young marrieds and almost marrieds, doing hand-to-hand combat over issues of commitment, fidelity and responsibility.

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- 1 Famed family of auto racers
- 7 Not lost
- 14 Drug for a poison victim, maybe
- 20 Kind of eyes
- 21 Latifegas
- 22 In-flight
- 23 Start of a Christmas verse
- 26 Sandpapered
- 27 Airport abbr.
- 28 Park, Colo.
- 29 Article in Die Zeit
- 30 "Damage" director
- 32 Part of a car test course
- 33 Rub
- 37 Mrs. John — (Pocahontas)
- 38 "... calls."
- 39 Not brilliant
- 43 They're uplifting
- 44 Event covered by paparazzi
- 45 1919 Theta Beta
- 46 Mosque head
- 47 Verse, part 2
- 53 Oklahoma Indian
- 54 Utah skiing resort
- 55 Field for a gov. or a son.
- 56 Gulf sight

For any three answers, call from a touch-tone phone: 1-900-285-5825, \$1.20 each minute.

87 Casual time to start work

88 "O__ babbino caro" (Puccini aria)

89 Removing one's hat in an elevator, e.g.

91 Where grapes are grown

92 1930's-60's columnist who wrote "Washington Merry-Go-Round"

93 Not straight

94 Epistle of the New Testament

95 Pals

96 71 Not an exact fig

97 Big shock?

98 Nuclear event, in headlines

99 Rugged ridge

100 Came down

101 First of a Latin trio

102 Verse, part 3

103 Withered

104 Skinny

105 Roman called "the Censor"

106 Bus Stop

107 playwright

108 Viva-voce

109 Abbr. after some church names

110 One cycle per second

111 Enter the picture

112 Vacation locale

113 Where grapes are grown

114 Purely extra

115 On high

116 Tabulae (clean slate)

117 One of the Mamas and the Papas

118 A helping hand

119 —Magnon

120 Lrgc

121 Most acute

122 Marilyn Monroe feature

123 "When I was ..."

124 The Name of the Rose figure

125 Beast

126 Betray, in a way

127 Across had one

128 Tabulae (clean slate)

129 Nissan sedan

130 Ornamental cord on clothing

131 Mozart's "Dove"

132 Soap plank

133 Knucklehead

134 Baseball's Pinelli

135 Melody

136 Misnising word

137 Grit

138 Wear away

139 Hero's medal: Abb.

140 Knobbed

141 Kind of beam

142 File

143 Florida collegian

144 They precede many lists

145 Bewails

146 Inventor Howe

147 Photo —

148 Terse critiques

149 Walter Scott's youth

150 False

151 Indica

152 Attack

153 Survey choice

154 Funny Anne

155 Baba'sm

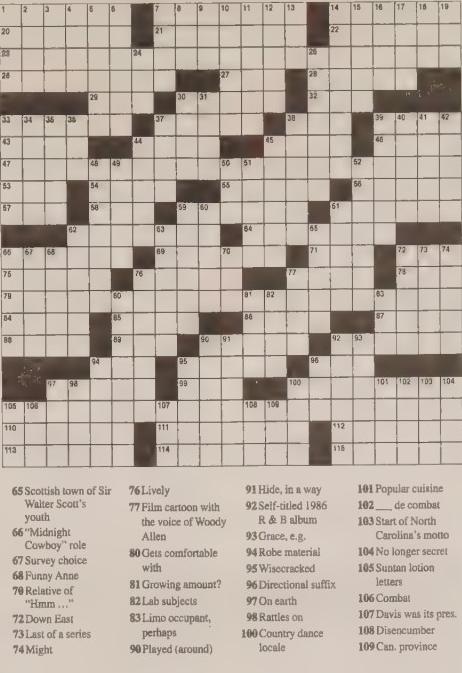
156 Stay

157 Soft shade

158 "Hmn..."

159 Hall— (pinup)

160 Cup



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for a variety of specialized tours focusing on one aspect of the museum's permanent collection. Wednesday, 12:30 p.m. Free with museum admission.

\$6 general; \$4 seniors and students; free children age 5 and under; second Sundays are free to all. Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.; first Friday of the month, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 888-OAK-MUSE or

See EVENTS, Page C10

Events

FROM PAGE C5

a.m. to 5 p.m. 2911 Russell St., Berkeley, 415-591-8800 or www.magnesmuseum.org.

MILLS COLLEGE ART MUSEUM —

Free, Tuesday, Thursday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-430-2164 or www.mills.edu/MCMC/mcm.home.html

MUSEE DES HOMMAGES — "Masterworks Copies by Guy Colwell," ongoing. A new museum of masterwork recreations of famous European paintings by a California artist. The paintings, which cover a wide spectrum of European paintings from Van Eyck in the 15th century to Picasso in the 20th century, are full-scale, faithful copies of works by famous artists of the past, created in an attempt to understand the secrets of these great artists. The museum does not have regular hours so call ahead.

Free. 2028 9th St., Berkeley. 510-841-

4210 or www.atelier9.com

OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA — "Wild Wings: The Waterfowl Art of Harry Curieux Adamson," through March 30. Forty-five oil paintings of California wildlife, including waterfowl migration patterns and the nature of avian flight.

"Arte Latino: Treasures from the Smithsonian American Art Museum," through Jan. 26. Sixty-six paintings, sculptures and photographs highlighting Latino art from across the United States.

"California's Closet: From Flapper to Rapper," through March 2. This exhibit explores how California's cultural diversity, entertainment industry and leisure lifestyle impact the nation's clothing styles, from decorated hippie jeans to silhouettes of Hollywood dresses.

"Solo Flights: The Aerial Photographs of Robert Hartman," through Jan. 12.

Featuring twenty-five photographs taken from 1,000 feet above ground utilizing exotic colors, abstract geometry, and infrared color film

"State of Emergency: Disaster Response in California," through March

30. An exhibition offering a historical overview of disasters beginning with the 1906 San Francisco. The exhibit includes Maggie Hallahan's photography, recovered objects, maps, and emergency response equipment.

"The Ruster Ranch Mastodon Project," ongoing. Visitors are invited to watch staff members of the Natural Sciences Department prepare a nearly complete mastodon for exhibit. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS — Free with museum admission unless noted otherwise.

"Community Kwanzaa Celebration: Integrating the Nguzo Saba, the Heart of Kwanzaa," Dec. 29, noon to 4 p.m. Learn the origins, rituals and purpose of Kwanzaa. Featuring a ceremony, crafts, local artists, storytelling, drumming and dancing.

"Online Museum," Thursdays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Explore the museum's collection on videodiscs in the History Department Library.

DAYTRIP TOURS — Docent Gallery Tours, Saturday and Sunday, 1:30 p.m.

Art a la Carte, ongoing. Art docents of

93 Hide, in a way

94 Self-titled 1986 R & B album

95 Grace, e.g.

96 Rose material with

97 Funny Anne

98 Growing amount?

99 Lab subjects

100 Limbo occupant,

101 Popular cuisine

102 Self-titled 1986 R & B album

103 Start of North Carolina's motto

104 No longer secret

105 Suntan lotion

106 Directional suffix letters

107 Combat

108 Davis was its pres.

109 Disencluser

110 Can. province

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See EVENTS, Page C10

Donate Your Vehicle



Your tax deductible donation of a car or RV can MAKE A WISH come true for those with life-threatening illness.

1-888-794-9421
Greater Bay Area Make-A-Wish Foundation

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It's FIRE Season! Are You Prepared?
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for a variety of specialized tours focusing on one aspect of the museum's permanent collection. Wednesday, 12:30 p.m. Free with museum admission.

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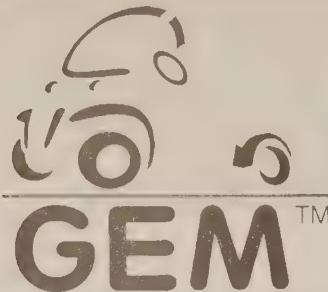
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Ad expires close of business Sunday, December 29, 2002. Allow 6-8 weeks delivery.* Metallic paint extra price on basic orders without options.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

870 Legal Notice

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO SELL REAL PROPERTY BY AUCTION

In the Superior Court of the State of California, County of San Francisco, the Master of the Conservatorship of the Person and Estate of LILLIAN DAVIES, Conservator's NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, on the 26th day of November, 2002, the above entitled court on the 26th day of November, 2002, at the time and place last above set forth, will be held within the time allowed by law, the undersigned, conservator of the person and estate of LILLIAN DAVIES, will sell at private sale, the real property and best net bid on the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth, the title and interest of the Conservator in the property located at 1000 Hill Way, Martinez, County of Contra Costa, State of California, described as follows: The property consists of the Ranchos Las Juntas, described as follows: Beginning at a point lying 40 feet in width Vine Hill Road known as Vine Hill Way, the corner of the parcel of land described in the deed from Kate T. Rodgers to George A. Sherrill, et ux., dated March 19, 1945, and recorded April 1, 1945, page 2226 of Official Records at page 304, thence from said point bearing North 60 degrees 20' 20" West along the west line of said Shaw parcel, 100' 78" due south, then bearing east 250' 78" due south, then bearing west 32' 6" due east, then due north 54' 22" due to the center line of Vine Hill Way, thence forth north 73 degrees 03' east 154' 5" due east, then due north 68' east 173' 54" feet along the center line of said Vine Hill Way, the same is subject to current taxes, covenants, conditions, restrictions, easements, rights of way, and encumbrances of record, any encumbrances of record, any encumbrances filed out of the purchase price, or assumed by the purchaser, any encumbrances, if any, by the lender, petitioner, the court, or applicable law, any property which may be as basis, except as to title bids or offers are invited, and all bids must be in writing and will be received at the office of FRED L. DAVIES, Conservator for Conservator, at the date and time specified above. The sale will be conducted under the following terms: All cash or part cash and part credit on sale, and all other conditions acceptable to the undersigned and to the Court. For the sum of \$10,000.00, the amount of the bid to accompany the offer by certificate of title, and to ZEL DAVIES, conservator of

870 Legal Notice

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NOTICE OF INTENTION TO SELL REAL PROPERTY BY AUCTION

the person and estate of LILLIAN DAVIES, conservator, and the balance to be paid on recording of conveyance, recording, or transfer of title, or payment of expenses, and premiums on title, or any other expense.

The purchaser shall be pro-

vided as of the date of the

recording, conveyance,

or transfer, and the con-

sideration, the title and

best net bid on the terms

and conditions here-

inafter set forth, the

title and interest of the

conservator in the prop-

erty, is hereby given.

The property is presently

improved and unoccu-

ped. Note: No legal fees

or costs are to be paid

to the court, or to the

undersigned, or to the

conservator, or to the

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- Power Brakes
- Dual remote mirrors
- Tinted Glass
- And Much More!



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per mo. PURCHASE

WITH CASH DOWN \$0
1 AT THIS PAYMENT

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WITH CASH DOWN \$0
1 AT THIS PAYMENT

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- AM/FM/CD Stereo
- Dual remote mirrors
- Tinted Glass
- And Much More!



2002 Kia Sedona Minivan

- 3.5L V-6 Engine
- Dual remote mirrors
- Power Wind/Locks
- Frnt/Rear Air
- 7 Passenger Seating
- And Much Much More!



\$338
per mo. PURCHASE

WITH CASH DOWN \$0
1 AT THIS PAYMENT

2003 Kia Serento LX

- 3.5L V-6 Engine
- Air Condition
- Power Wind/Locks
- Trailer-Tow Pckg.
- AM/FM/CD System
- And Much Much More!



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Auto Plus

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Friday, December 27, 2002

Section D

Classic Classics: Owner gets satisfaction driving his Mack truck [D4]

DON CHAIKIN
Owners Auto Know

Now is time to
check wipers
and washer

MOTOR MATTERS
Even snow, ice, slush and fewer
night hours, driving at this time
of year can be a harrowing experience.
It can be downright dangerous
if you can't see past
your windshield.

Even windshield wipers that are
in their prime won't win the battle
against the streaks, smears and
ice stains that hinder vision
in snowfall. The best windshield
wipers need help from your vehicle's
windshield washer.

Regardless of where you live
or drive, it is a good idea to be
sure that the washer system is
working at optimum capacity.

Check your washer maintenance
by checking the washer's
reservoir. Remember that if your vehicle
is equipped with a rear washer,
you also have a second reservoir;
so, if certain, check the owner's
manual.

You should inspect the washer's
reservoir regularly. In fact, if you live
in a snow belt, this time of year
you may have to refill it weekly.

The reservoir does need to be
filled or refilled, do so with a com-
mercial windshield washer solvent
that contains an antifreeze agent.
The antifreeze that's in washer
solvent is not the same as engine
antifreeze, so don't add any of that
to the washer reservoir.

Also, don't simply add regular
window cleaner to the
solvent. Some of the chemicals in
household cleaner will attack

the owners, Page D3



THE 2003 VW GOLF is a five-passenger, four-door hatchback that's classified as a small car yet has respectable interior roominess.

MOTOR MATTERS

MOTOR MATTERS
Interested in a car that gets
good fuel mileage? Take a look at
the 2003 Volkswagen Golf GLS
Turbo Diesel Injection, which gets
49 miles per gallon highway.

Fuel economy is one reason the
Golf has been the best-selling car
in Europe for many years.

Gasoline is more expensive in
Europe than in the U.S. Another rea-
son is that the Golf is an all-round
nice little car — and it doesn't cost
a fortune.

The base price of my tester is
\$18,710. Options to bring it to

\$19,760 include the Monsoon
sound system, heated seats, heated
windshield washer nozzles, plus
shipping.

The Golf is a five-passenger,
four-door hatchback that's classi-
fied as a small car yet has respec-
tive interior roominess.

With the rear hatch open and the
rear seats folded down, it is capa-
ble of carrying large cargo, such as
a washing machine or large TV set.

With the seats in the normal po-
sition, a cover over the rear storage
helps reduce interior noise.

There are three versions of the

TOM KEANE
Keane on Wheels

Golf: two- and four-door GL mod-
els and the GLS. The heated seats
are available only on the GLS and
are very comfortable in cold weather.

Another worthwhile option is the
Electronic Stabilization Program to
get the car back on track if an emer-
gency swerve causes the driver to
lose control.

To my surprise, a 1.9-liter four-

cylinder 90 horsepower engine
powers this vehicle. The four cylin-
ders didn't surprise me as I could
hear the typical diesel-engine sound
of "clack-clack-clack," but 90 horse-
power?

Obviously, this car is not a
speedster, yet I had no difficulty
keeping pace in traffic — and at 42
mpg city driving, that's great per-
formance.

The torque range is quite broad,
and the Golf was quick to acceler-
ate, regardless of speed.

My tester had a manual trans-
mission that was easy and smooth

to shift. Although an automatic
transmission is available, the fuel
economy isn't as impressive.

But there are disadvantages to
diesel fuel: It is not available at all
gas stations; sometimes the pumps
are off to the side of the station
where trucks have easier access;
and diesel has a distinctive odor
that could be detected every time I
got into the car.

I had the opportunity to drive this
vehicle through some snow and
slush and with the front-wheel drive.

See KEANE, Page D2

2003 VW Golf diesel provides fuel economy

See OWNERS, Page D3

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0% APR 2.9% APR 3.9% APR

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(excludes convertibles)

and '02 Prius, RAV 4
on credit approval

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'03 Solara AM, Power Windows/Locks & Much More! \$18,988 1 at this price #022668	'02 Prius Power Windows/Locks, CD, Cruise & More! \$19,888 1 at this price Model 1222/#066927	'02 RAV4 Power Windows/Locks, Alum. Wheels, AM/FM Cass., & More! \$19,888 Net Cost After \$750 Factory Rebate Model 4426/#177309	'03 Avalon XL \$25,888 1 at this price Model 2534/#1302544

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2003 FORESTER
Air, Power Windows/Locks, Alloy Wheels &
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'02 WRX
Automatic, Black Ext., Upgraded Sound System,
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WE CAN HELP!**



MOTOR MATTERS

2003 Ford Explorer: A mid-size SUV mainstay

MOTOR MATTERS

How big is too big? When it comes to SUVs that's a question that manufacturers have been trying to answer for some time now. As sport utes got more and more popular in the 1990s, variations appeared ranging from tiny to huge.

Now, as we've turned the corner on the millennium, the market seems to be sorting itself out. The smaller versions are becoming hybrid "crossovers," and the really big ones are becoming extinct.

Meanwhile, the mid-size Ford Explorer continues on as a perennial best-seller, suggesting that a lot of people find this a practical size vehicle for their needs.

Right size is one thing, but there's more to this Ford's success than just the dimensions. Variety, for one. The new Explorer is offered in a multitude of models, trim levels and packages.

Ford now sells XLS, XLS Sport, XLT, XLT Sport; NBX; Eddie Bauer and Limited versions. New among these offerings is the NBX package. The most distinguishing feature is the Yakima cargo basket mounted topside.

Measuring 44 inches by 39 inches by 6.5 inches deep, the steel basket will accommodate gear that either can't be stowed inside (because you're packed to capacity), or that

DAN LYONS
Get Off the Road

you just don't want to put inside (like muddy, soggy stuff that you don't want messing up the interior).

The Explorer is hardly small, so you might wonder why anybody would need extra room on the roof.

A conventional, five-passenger model will hold a generous 46.6 cubic feet of gear behind the back seat; 88 cubic feet, with rear row folded.

Seven-passenger models do almost as well with all rows folded, but if needing maximum seating, this configuration leaves you with minimum room.

Three rows for people nets a pack-light 13.8 cubic feet for stuff. So, the more people you plan on taking along for the ride, the more a roof rack or the NBX's Yakima basket becomes a necessity.

Cargo carrier aside, the NBX package includes black trim on bumpers, side moldings and step bars, larger rolling stock and special interior trim.

All Explorers have a well designed interior, the highlights of which are a logical array of switchgear, plenty of room and lots of small storage spots.

The lowlights are entry/exit to/from the third row seats (where fitted), and

the corresponding reduction in cargo room.

Access to the cargo compartment is by means of a split-design rear door. You can either swing the window or the whole tailgate up, depending on what you're loading/unloading.

Explorer underwent a complete makeover last year, part of which concerned the chassis. An independent rear suspension replaced the former solid axle design, and the difference is mostly felt in corners.

New Explorers will absorb a mid-corner bump with less carrying on than previously, and also less in the way of side-to-side bounce.

Off-road, the new suspension's improved compliance means a smoother trip on rough terrain. Explorer's 4x4 system defaults to an automatic setting, wherein traction is poured through all four paws only when conditions dictate. Otherwise, it's rear-wheel drive.

The driver can also select four-wheel drive high or low settings.

The undercarriage can be equipped with optional, protective skid plates for the powertrain components by selecting the off-road package.

Last year's redesign trimmed some overhang off both ends, resulting in improved angles of approach and departure (27.7 and 23.9 degrees, respectively).

The ramp breakaway angle is 18.2 degrees; ground clearance measures 8.5 inches.

I have driven the Explorer on some pretty rugged off-road trails and also through some nasty winter weather. Conditions were as bad and worse than the typical Explorer buyer will ever encounter, and through it all, this Ford acquitted itself nicely.

Like all truck-based SUVs, Explorer's high center of gravity suggests caution when cornering, especially in slick conditions. That being said, it offers good-for-the-breed handling and exemplary ride comfort.

Two engine choices are available: a standard 4.0-liter V6 and the optional 4.6-liter V8, as found in my test vehicle. It's rated at 239 horsepower, 282 pound-feet of torque.

The V8 is smooth and powerful, and predictably thirsty — I averaged a tick over 14 mpg in more than 500 miles of mixed driving. Explorer can be optioned to tow as much as 7,300 pounds.

On- or off-road, towing a trailer or transporting the troops, Explorer's key to success is its adaptability. Versatility and variety keep this Ford perennially near the top of the pack in SUV sales.

Do you have any idea what the problem might be?

James Hubbell
Napoleonville, La.

A Your Honda, like other cars and light trucks built since 1996, is equipped with OBD-II (On-Board Diagnostics, generation 2).

This government-mandated emissions diagnostics system keeps an eye on a wide range of engine and emission conditions, and alerts you via the "Check Engine" light if exhaust or evaporative emissions are likely to exceed 1.5 times the government standard.

Your car monitors the fuel storage and evaporative control system by running leakage and flow tests, depending on operating conditions, as often as once or twice a day, or less frequently if rather stringent enable criteria aren't met.

The system is capable of identifying the smallest of leaks, and the EVAP hoses, storage canister, valves and tank plumbing offer many an opportunity for problems.

Failing to tighten the gas cap

properly can result in an illuminated engine light. This point this is but can be a cause of Why might the light to occur, and is fixed?

The OBD-II system sees the leak test during the light, and occurs satisfactorily on occasions.

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The OBD-II system test and an illuminating light.

1962 Mack dump truck gets a tender, loving overhaul and new paint job

MOTOR MATTERS

From 1953 through 1966, Mack built Model B61 durable trucks that towed trailers, delivered ready-mix concrete and carried loads as dump trucks. They featured a bulldog atop the radiator shell.

Before graduating from the University of Maryland in 1977, Bill Wilkinson spent his summers wrestling the three-spoke, 22-inch-diameter steering wheel of a 10-wheel Mack dump truck.

"That's when I fell in love with the B," Wilkinson says 25 years later.

Now that he travels throughout the Tidewater area selling propane equipment, he keeps his commercial driver's license current in case he has to demonstrate a propane truck.

Another truck aficionado and friend, Eddie Jappell, bought a used 10-wheel 1962 Mack B61 tractor with two live rear ends driving all eight rear wheels. Wilkinson persuaded Jappell to sell the Mack to him in the summer of 2000.

"It needed some cosmetic help," Wilkinson remembers of the marron truck with black fenders.

The Mack, with a gross vehicle weight rating of 52,000 pounds, had a 170-horsepower, six-cylinder Thermodyne diesel engine under the

VERN PARKER
Classic Classics

hood. Power was transferred to the eight-drive wheels through a 15-speed tripleplex gearbox.

Wilkinson had no intention of ever towing a commercial trailer, so the greasy fifth wheel was removed and that area between the tandem dual wheels was covered with a shiny sheet of diamond-plate aluminum. Form-fitting fenders made from the same material cover each set of four-drive wheels.

To accommodate the occasional need to tow an antique car on a small trailer, Wilkinson welded a Class III hitch at the usual bumper height.

A more powerful 237-horsepower, six-cylinder Maxidyne diesel engine was recovered from a wrecked late 1980s Model R Mack. It was turbocharged, requiring Wilkinson to install the external air breather on the right side of the cab to provide the required extra air.

Because hauling heavy loads wasn't going to be in the Mack's future, all the gears in the original transmission weren't needed, so it was replaced by a straight five-speed transmission, which means

less gear shifting and double clutching both up and down.

"With no overdrive," Wilkinson said, "60 is about tops." The speedometer tops out at 80 mph.

Before repainting the dashboard green, the color shared by all B Models, Wilkinson had the tachometer, speedometer, fuel gauge and cardboard headliner replaced. All the windows were replaced, and new chrome and stainless brightwork was installed after the body was painted a brighter-than-bright yellow.

The front fenders and chassis were done in gloss black, with the twin 45-gallon saddle fuel tanks painted fire-engine red.

There is now a satisfying sound coming from the two vertical 10-foot-tall exhaust stacks, each one 5 inches in diameter. Wilkinson exclaims, "This truck delivers me to where I want to be!"

The Mack sold new for about \$18,000, according to Wilkinson. It came with a vinyl-covered seat, air brakes, two air vents above and behind the fenders, and a heater.

Five amber clearance lights march across the top of the cab above the two-piece windshield. Behind them are two 18-inch-long chrome air horns, which Wilkinson is happy to honk whenever a



THIS RESTORED 1962 Mack pickup truck needed a major cosmetic makeover when purchased by the present owner in 2000.

youngster in a passing car makes the universally recognized request by pumping his arm.

"It takes me back to a simpler time," he said.

Because the 19 1/2-foot-long tractor has no heavy trailer to hold down the rear wheels, he remarks, "It lets you know what type road you're on."

He plans to remove a few of the

10 leaves in both rear leaf springs. To further enhance the ride quality, he also hopes to replace the 10.00 R 22-inch recapped tube-type tires with 11.00 R 24.5-inch tubeless tires.

Wilkinson was somewhat intimidated by the size of the truck when he started the restoration project. However, with the help and en-

couragement of his son, he realized he could do it.

"This truck," he says,

If you have a vehicle to sell, call Motor Matters, 4835 Elmwood, Wilmington, DE 19804, or

ring its merits.



MOTOR MATTERS

Honda Element: Lots of cargo room

The 2003 Honda Element accommodates a new generation of vehicle buyer who seeks room for bulky items like big sports gear but doesn't want a pickup truck or a large, expensive SUV.

Wrapped in a compact and durable exterior, Element has loads of cargo room while offering refinement, value, economy and performance.

Elements package makes it road-trip capable, campground friendly and adaptable to people on the move — whether it's from an apartment to ocean, mountain to dorm, or somewhere in-between.

Deerly beloved: Each year, car collisions with deer account for more than 200 human and 1.4 million deer fatalities.

October through December is the highest season for the accidents, since it's a time for both wandering deer and holiday travelers.

Be alert if you see one deer, because there are often more nearby. Deer crossing signs warrant drivers' attention because they are placed in areas where deer congregate and migrate.

SPARE PARTS

Motor Matters

Used car bargains: Even though the no-interest new-car financing opportunities are beginning to slow, previous sales of new cars has left an overflow of used cars on the market.

Nationwide, used vehicle prices have dropped 3.4 percent in the past 12 months and 5.2 percent since the beginning of the year, according to the Manheim Used Vehicle Index.

The result is a glut of used vehicles jamming dealers' lots, resulting in low prices.

The winner: During the past four NASCAR seasons, Pontiac has become a major player by winning 30 races during that span.

Last month, Grand Prix driver Tony Stewart began his reign as NASCAR's newest Winston Cup Champion, allowing Pontiac to savor its fourth-ever title and second in the past three seasons.

Stewart's title is the 35th crown

for General Motors since NASCAR began honoring its champions in 1949. GM participates with Chevrolet and Pontiac brands.

Hidden cost: Insurance prices should be a consideration when purchasing a new vehicle, as the vehicle's characteristics have a large influence on insurance rates.

Factors of weight, cost of the vehicle, and the body type are considerations in determining rates, according to Progressive Insurance Co.

In general, more expensive and heavier vehicles cost more to insure. In addition, two-door vehicles, including convertibles, can also cost more to insure than four-door sedans.

Good news: U.S. consumer confidence rose more than expected in November, indicating that shoppers may help the economy overcome a decline in manufacturing.

The University of Michigan said its preliminary sentiment index increased to 85 from 80.6 last month, while the Federal Reserve said industrial production fell 0.8 percent in October.



MOTOR MATTERS

GENERAL MOTORS recently captured its 35th NASCAR Winston Cup championship with a Pontiac driven by Tony Stewart. This is Pontiac's second title in the past three seasons, and fourth overall.

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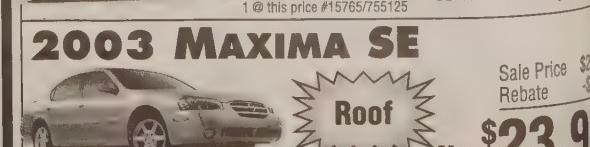
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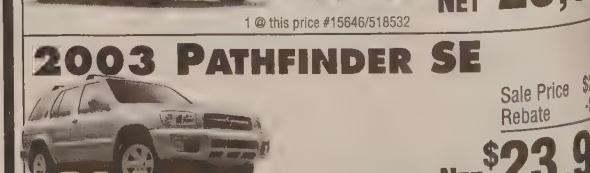
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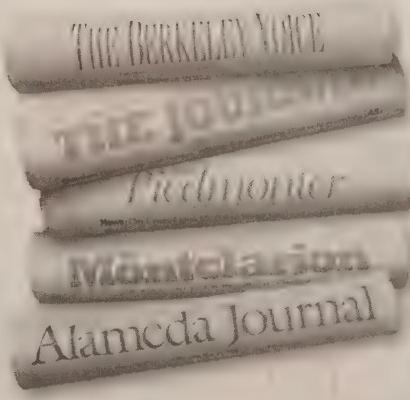
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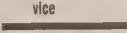
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Shopping Plus

ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

Friday, December 27, 2002

Look inside for local advertising circulars every Friday

Top cookbooks promote foods of home and away

BY WILLIAM RICE

CHICAGO TRIBUNE
This is a banner year for cooking, with giving and receiving. If you didn't find one under the tree, there's still time to add one to a kitchen repertoire.

French restaurants are offering a come-back, only one book made our list of a dozen. Italy, on the other hand, three. Other geographically specific books include one from Japan and one on Thai food. Three of the books contain valuable research and one is a product in the healthy eating category.

In general, publishers have held on pricing, even though books are so large, they will hard to drag into the kitchen.

Conscious Cuisine, by Cary

(Sourcebooks, \$35)
This book is a lovely blend of fresh and vibrant colors that will enliven any coffee table proud. It's also a beautifully seductive collection of international ingredients and flavorings that promote more healthful eating.

Well, a Washburne Trade School graduate began his 25-year career as a restaurant chef at the now-defunct Yoshi's Place in Chicago.

Cooking From A To Z, by Patricia Yeo (St. Martin's Press, \$35)

Patricia Yeo, executive chef of New York City's AZ restaurant, has produced an original collection of recipes that are approachable for a home cook with a modicum of skill and a bold palate. Not only does she hold out a helping hand, she even keeps sub-recipes to a minimum.

The book's title is cute but misleading. This is not an encyclopedia. Rather it is an appealing collection of recipes that, as she and co-author Julia Moskin write, "follow the basic outlines of American food but have the unmistakable zing and bright flavors of Asia."

Fusion cooking is nothing new for this biochemist turned chef. She grew up as part of a Chinese family living in Kuala Lumpur, a culinary crossroads for Asian cooking.

Among her delightful cross-cultural creations are lemon grass gravlax, tomato-red pepper soup with garlic cream, and ginger-lacquered hot chicken wings.

Cooking The Roman Way, by David Downie (Harper Collins, \$34.95)

In explanation of the subtitle, "Authentic recipes from the home cooks and trattorias of Rome," author David Downie points out that the city's "family-run trattorias are the extension of home tables." Both produce food that is "easy to make" and "fun to eat." But Downie, an American travel and food writer, avoids the glib, glossy prose that colors so many hymns to great

cooking.

Running photographs in the nutritional information for each recipe testify to his accomplishments. Here is a line-up of four

books:

dramatically different recipes from the salad section: apple-barley salad, Thai roast chicken and vegetable salad, curried cauliflower salad, Southwestern black bean salad.

Kitchen Italian, by Patricia Yeo

and Julia Moskin (St. Martin's, \$35)

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and Julia Moskin (St. Martin's,

\$35)

Glorious French Food, by

David Darrow (Harper Collins,

\$35)

Sara Moulton Cooks at Home,

by Sara Moulton (Harper Collins,

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Thai Food, by David Thompson

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Cookbooks

FROM PAGE 1

cities. The lovely photographs of food raw and cooked are not glossy either. Some of the recipes he presents are classic (artichokes Roman style), many are rustic (fennel and bean soup with cherry tomatoes), and most are simple (spaghetti with pecorino Romano and black pepper).

"Glorious French Food," by James Peterson (Wiley, \$45)

Having taken on the subject of sausages a decade ago, James Peterson has spent some years researching and photographing this update of classic French cooking. (To him, "classic cuisine" means old-style cooking, not just the luxury items sold in posh restaurants.) Words and ideas flow from the pages in a seemingly endless stream.

His daring attempt to unlock French cooking from the shackles of tradition is to present a master recipe, then (shades of Julia Child) to follow it with a sequence of recipes that use some of the same "building blocks" and add or subtract others. Glazed sliced carrots, therefore, become glazed whole baby carrots, then glazed or creamed onions, and so on until reaching little stuffed onions seven recipes later. This is one of 50 chapters.

He often interrupts his discussion of olive oil or snails, the nuances of sauté and fricassee or his experiences as an apprentice cook in Paris. He also includes a pronunciation guide.

"Many Beautiful Things," by Vincent Schiavelli (Simon & Schuster, \$26)

There should be a rule that any list of a year's best food books must contain a memoir with the charm of "A Year in Provence" and recipes as evocative as M.F.K. Fisher's. This

year's nominee is set in the Sicilian town of Polizzi Generosa. Vincent Schiavelli's grandparents had emigrated from Sicily to Brooklyn at the turn of the 20th century. Papa Andrea, as his grandfather was known, had been a chef and shared his knowledge with young Vincent.

Along with it came tales "about a magical land where prickly pears and figs abounded, watermelons were round, and artichokes could be eaten whole." Schiavelli, a film actor and author who wrote about his grandfather in "Papa Andrea's Sicilian Table," finally visited his ancestral home in 1988, found relatives and has been back half-a-dozen times since.

Schiavelli is a dedicated cook, and the recipes he collects are first-rate representations of a cucina ruled by simplicity and tradition. Read a little, cook a little. You'll enjoy both.

"Real Stew," by Clifford A. Wright (Harvard Common Press, \$18.95)

When a certified scholar takes on an amorphous subject such as stew, it's a sure bet that the result will be large. Not content with the narrow view, Clifford A. Wright sees it as a "catchall word" to describe cooking at a simmering heat. Therefore, ragouts, braises, cassoulet, gumbo, chili, curry, minestrone, bouillabaisse, stroganoff, goulash and chowder all are welcome in the pot, which has room for 300 recipes from 50 nations.

There's goat stew from Aruba, "poor folk's" peppered rabbit stew from Andalusia, a Mediterranean seafood ragout and much more new to American cooks. Wright's recipe notes are mini-lectures: scholarly, informative and sometimes droll. But however defined and wherever cooked, stew can be a marvelous taste experience. This is a book from which to cook.

"Sara Moulton Cooks At Home," by Sara Moulton (Broadway, \$29.95)

Sara Moulton is living proof that nice girls can finish first. Who ever heard of a self-effacing television star? But that she is, with a show on the Food Network and regular appearances on "Good Morning, America." Her book is remarkably free of references to the culinary celebrities she knows. Instead, the focus is on family and friends, complete with photos.

She puts true foodies at ease with one simple sentence: "I have always loved to eat."

She hints at the impressive range of her recipes with another: "This is a great time to be cooking in America." Within this broad framework she can cook like a cutting-edge chef (Thai-style roasted Cornish game hen), a mom (cheesy popcorn and mini meat loaves), a teacher (rice for the rice-impaired) or party hostess (turkey burgers with tomato corn salsa). She becomes a link between the profes-

sional cook and the home cook, making complex recipes easier to decipher and adding flair to simple ones.

"Baking In America," by Greg Patent (Houghton Mifflin, \$35)

From time to time along comes a book that wraps itself around a subject and becomes the definitive reference. So it is with this 700-page examination by restaurateur-historian David Thompson. Thompson became one of Australia's elite chefs and now cooks in London, where his restaurant nahm won a star in the Michelin Guide.

His book begins with history, culture and geography, plus 28 pages on rice. The section, "fundamentals of Thai cooking," contains recipes and menus, while "food outside the meal" touches on street food. His writing flows as he describes this "singular cuisine that is easily distinguished even from its nearest neighbors." The recipes are enticing: double-steamed duck soup

with pickled limes, mango salad, green papaya, sweet crispy pork.

"Make It Italian," by Barr (Knopf, \$29.95)

Here's a classy book for beginning cooks who are using and experiencing full of useful techniques.

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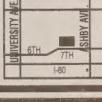
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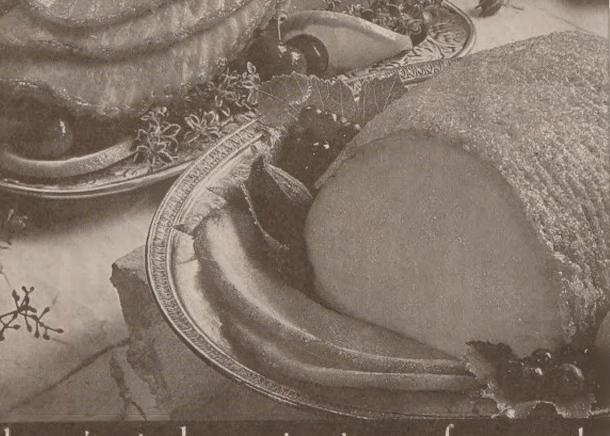
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Dinner
(925) 256-8899
2618 Pleasant Hill Rd.
Pleasant Hill

WPLJ's
Dance Club
\$25.00
BAY CITY MOBILE DJ'S
Party Favors
Split of Champagne
Midnight Buffet
2112 N. Main St., Walnut Creek
(925) 938-4140

Muscat
French/California CUISINE
(Formerly La Cigale)
Now Accepting Reservations for
New Year's Eve
*16th Early Bird Special
w/ Soup or Salad
*Executive Lunch Special
w/ Soup or Salad
Specials not valid on holidays
Make Your Holiday Party Reservations Now!
Gift Certificates Available
Full Bar, Patio Seating, Parking Available.
Lunch Mon.-Fri., Dinner 7 Nights
For Reservation call 925-937-8800
2195 N. Broadway, Walnut Creek

LISA'S TEA TREASURES
NEW YEARS EVE DINNER
Ring in the New Year with a little elegance. 5 Course Dinner, teas paired with each course.
Plus passed Hors D'oeuvres and a Champagne Toast
71 Lafayette Circle • Lafayette

Service with a view.

Blake's at Boundary Oak presents...

BACK TO THE FUTURE

New Year's Eve 2002

A food and wine extravaganza with dancing, open bar, caricaturist, fortune teller, and "back in time" style favors

Featuring Two Package Choices:

Dinner Package \$150.00 per person
Includes Multiple Course Buffet Dinner with Wine, 6-9 pm

PLUS everything in Party Package

Party Package \$75.00 per person includes

Dancing to "J.D. and Company" in Our Celebration Ballroom

From 9 pm -1:30 am

Party Favors and Champagne Toast at Midnight

Light Hors d'oeuvres & Open Bar from 9 pm - 1 am

Continental Breakfast served at 1:30 am

Be sure to ask about
our upcoming winery dinner featuring
the best of Beringer Estate
Wines and Habitat
for Humanity benefit dinner!



Bake's
the Walnut Creek

LOUNGE/CAFE CELEBRATIONS BAR & GRILL
3800 Valley Vista Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94598 (877) 4BLAKES
www.blakesatboundaryoak.com

For reservations call: (925) 946-0607

La Beau's Louisiana Kitchen

Christmas Dinner Buffet

From 1 til 9 PM All you can eat Turkey and all the fixins. Includes Solid Ices

\$17.50 per person



New Years Eve Dinner and Dance
from 5 PM to 2 AM Enjoy a complete 5 course meal including choice of Steak, Catfish or Chicken. Complimentary Potato Pancakes, Mashed Potatoes & Champagne. Dance to the sounds of Decon Blues featuring Spencer

\$50.00 per person

Reservations Recommended

For reservations call (925) 222-9222
436 Ferry St. Martinez, California

2 Ways to Laugh in the NEW YEAR

Tommy T's BASH

with

MIKE EPPS

from "Friday After Next"
"All About The Benjamins"

Daniel Dugar & Kenny Howell

2 SHOWS
8 & 10 pm



Includes: Dancing, Favors & Late Night

Includes: Live Music

Includes: "Movin'

\$160.00 per person

Includes a room

9 pm at the Concord Sheraton

For reservations call (925) 686-6609

TOMMY T'S
COMEDY • HOUSE

www.tommyts.com

**RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH
1000 SINGLES!**

**TUES, DECEMBER 31
8:30PM TIL 1:00AM**

SAN RAMON MARRIOTT
2600 BISHOP DRIVE
(880 TO BOLINER CANYON EXIT
GO EAST TO SUNSET DRIVE, TURN LEFT)
• 2 big party rooms
• Live band & DJ
• Party favors • Balloon drop
• 12AM Champagne toast
• FREE parking
• Dress to impress! Black tie optional.

**LIVE MUSIC BY
CONTRABAND**

**\$59 INCLUDES 2 BEVERAGE TIX
IN ADVANCE - \$69 AT THE DOOR**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT SAN RAMON MARRIOTT
NO SERVICE FEE • GREAT ROOM RATES
CALL OR ORDER ONLINE THRU PROFESSIONALS GUILD
925.937.4744 • WWW.PGUILD.COM**

Moonrise at Quail Court Presents:
A Gala
New Year's Eve

Includes:

- 5 Course Dinner
- Special Wine Served with Each Course
- Live Music & Dancing
- Flats, Horns & Confetti
- Champagne Toast at Midnight
- Open Bar on all Well Drinks

\$100 per person

Reservations Only!

945-0953

31 Quail Ct. • Walnut Creek